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Vol. XVIII.—No. 463.

MAY 21, 1859.

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ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. The Anniversary will be held at the Society's House, 15, Whitehall-place, on MONDAY, the 23rd inst., at One p.m. The Dinner will take place at the Freemason's Tavern, at Seven p.m. precisely; and those gentlemen who purpose supporting Sir R. MULCHISON on this occasion of his retiring from the chair are requested to leave their names at the office before Saturday, the 21st inst.

THE WORCESTER SOCIETY OF ARTS. FIFTH EXHIBITION—August, 1859.—Works of Art intended for this Exhibition must be addressed to the Secretary, and delivered at the Society's Rooms in Pierpoint-street, Worcester, or to Mr. Joseph Green, of 14, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital, London, on or before the 18th August next.

Further particulars, and a copy of the notice to Artists, will be forwarded on application to R. BAYLIS, Secretary, 7, Tything, Worcester, May 17, 1859.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION. Conductor, M. BENEDICT.—WEDNESDAY, May 25, at Eight, HANDEL'S ACIS and GALATEA. Mozart's Concerto in C major, &c. Principal performers: Miss Arabella Goddard, Mme. Enderssohn, Miss Himes, Mr. Santley, Mr. Dyson, and Mr. Sims Reeves. Band and Choir of nearly 400 performers. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d.; Sofa Stalls, 10s. 6d. each.—At all the principal Music-sellers, and St. James's Hall Ticket Office, 228, Piccadilly, W.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—HANDEL COMMEMORATION FESTIVAL.—FIVE SHILLING TICKETS.—In accordance with their published intention "of affording the opportunity of attending the Festival to those who do not desire Reserved Seats," the Directors have now the pleasure to announce that Tickets will be issued at Five Shillings each, for each of the three days of the Festival, viz. the 20th, 22nd, and 24th of June. These tickets will be in the North and South Naves, commencing on either side at the limit of the orchestra, and extending from thence towards the ends of the Palace. Seats will be provided, with an access entirely separate from that to the Reserved Seats and Stalls.

Applications for these Tickets will be received at the Crystal Palace and at 2, Exeter Hall only, on and after Monday, the 22nd inst.; but no applications can be attended to unless accompanied by a remittance of the full amount. Cheques and post-office orders to be made payable to GEORGE GROVE, Esq.—the latter at the General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-grand.

As only a limited number of these Tickets will be issued, early application is recommended.

By order, GEORGE GROVE, Secretary. N.B.—Additional Stalls have been reserved in the Galleries and in the Area—the latter on an inclined platform on the site of the small orchestra immediately fronting the Handel Orchestra; these and the Stalls in front of the Galleries are Five Guineas the set, or Two Guineas the Single Stall; the remaining Stalls One Guinea each, and Two-and-a-half Guineas the set.

Seats in the unnumbered blocks at Twenty-five Shillings the set, or Half-a-Guinea each, may also be had.

Plans of the above may be inspected at the Crystal Palace and 2, Exeter Hall.

Crystal Palace, May 18, 1859.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 28.

Monday, Open at Nine. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, Open at Ten. Admission, One Shilling; Children under Twelve, Sixpence.

Wednesday, May 25, Open at Ten. SECOND GRAND CONCERT this season by the Artists of the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA. Admission free, by Two-Guinea Season Tickets; or by One-Guinea Season Tickets, on payment of Half-a-crown; to Non-Season Ticket-holders, on payment of Seven Shillings and Sixpence; or, if tickets are purchased before the day on the written demand of a Season Ticket-holder, Five Shillings; Children under Twelve, Half-price.

Saturday, Open at Ten. VOCAL and INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT and FLORAL PROMENADE. Admission by Season Tickets of both classes, or on payment of Half-a-crown; Children under Twelve, One Shilling.

Sunday, Open at 1.30 to Shareholders gratuitously, by Tickets.

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Household Words came to the hammer; and if not precisely "sold for waste," has been sold to be annihilated. "To be sold," said Mr. HODGSON, under the direction of the Court of Chancery, "the right to use, from and after the 28th of May instant, the name of the periodical called *Household Words*, whether in continuation of the said periodical or otherwise, as the purchaser shall think fit, together with the stereotype plates of all the numbers, being No. 1 to No. 479, and the Christmas numbers from 1851 to 1859, together with the right to reproduce all such numbers in their present form, and the printed stock, consisting of about 620,000 numbers, being either in numbers, parts, or volumes." This was the prize offered to the competition of the curious and eager crowd that thronged Mr. HODGSON'S room—a name, and something more substantial, in the form of nearly 800*l.* worth of stereotype plates, and six hundred and twenty thousand back numbers. Surely of some value, even as waste paper!

The bidding was brisk enough at first, some persons evidently being in attendance under the impression that the property was to go for "an old song;" but as the price turned a thousand, the numbers "tailed off" (to use a sporting phrase), and presently the race was left to two, Messrs. BRADBURY and EVANS, and Mr. CHARLES DICKENS represented by Mr. ARTHUR SMITH. Slowly and long the struggle proceeded, the bids coming unwillingly and as if coaxed out by the patient blandishments of the auctioneer. When they did rise, it was by fifties at a time; but Mr. HODGSON had to dilate much upon the brilliant opportunity for creating a rapid fortune offered for sale during the long intervals between the biddings. When three thousand had been passed, this unwillingness became more apparent, and, at last, when the auctioneer prepared to read the particulars of sale, for the purpose of stimulating the unwilling competitors, the audience, now reduced to mere spectators, burst into a roar of laughter. At length the limit was reached; Messrs. BRADBURY and EVANS succumbed—as in the nature of things they must have done—to the advantage of three to one which Mr. DICKENS possessed over them, and the property was knocked down for 3,550*l.* And a very cheap bargain, too. At a cost of 1,330*l.* (which will be about the proportion due to Messrs. BRADBURY and Mr. WILLS) Mr. DICKENS destroys a rival, and acquires solid property worth a great deal more than he has given for it. His course is now clear enough; and as if to allay any doubt about it he advertises that *Household Words* is to be discontinued, and that, after the 28th of May, "that publication will be merged into *All the Year Round*." It is to be presumed also that the title of *Household Words* will be added to the other. As for the "back stock," there can be no doubt that it will always have a value. *Household Words* has been, of its kind, the very best serial publication yet attempted, and perfect copies of it will always have their value as a stock addition to libraries. May the career of its successor be equally brilliant and equally successful.

Messrs. BRADBURY and EVANS, evidently determined not to quit the field, have announced a new periodical, to be entitled, *Once a Week*. Rumour gives the task of conducting this to Mr. SAMUEL LUCAS, once editor of the *Press*, and now reputed to be connected with the *Times*.

As if to set all doubt at rest as to the claims of Mr. TUPPER to the lines signed "T.," an anonymous poet has contributed some verses to the *Morning Advertiser*, which are printed (as we were editorially informed) "contrary to our rule, not to publish original poetry." The following specimens will serve to give an idea of the quality of the poetic gem:

England! there are those among us,
Bastardships, not sons true-born,
Who with piling treason wrong us
And their freeman birthright scorn;
Spite of honour, safety, duty,
Such poor slaves of Peace and Shame,
To their sluggish idol's beauty
Wish to sacrifice thy fame.

Yet, for fear some skulking crapaud
Should elude such swift pursuit,
And with this Napoleon's drapeau
England's virgin soil pollute,—
Our dear country! we stand steady
To defend thy sacred homes,
And will hold our rifles ready
For the Brigand, if he comes.

What need to be told that, although the editor is "not permitted to give the name of the writer," he is "universally admitted to be among the most popular poets of the day"? Is it not signed "T.," and does not TUPPER stand confessed?

Many changes and rumours of changes in the newspaper world. In spite of the necrology of the cheap press which the *Times* is so ready to record, many new cheap papers are projected. The *Daily Telegraph* has produced an evening version, and the proprietors of the *Weekly Times* are also said to be contemplating a cheap daily paper. To meet these encroachments, the existing papers are putting forth their strength. A cheap paper is shortly expected in connection with the *Morning Chronicle*, and the *Evening Herald* is about to extend its size from four pages to eight. The last-mentioned paper, in addition to the careful and creditable manner in which it is edited, is also distinguished among its contemporaries for the accuracy of the political information which makes its first appearance

in its columns, especially that which is connected with the movements of the present Government.

The newspaper correspondent is after all to play his part in the already-begun European war. The *Times* has not only got a correspondent at Turin, but has even obtained the permission of the Emperor of AUSTRIA to send one with the Austrian army. The story is that when application respecting this was made to the Austrian Embassy, the request was at once refused; but upon appeal being made to the Emperor, he at once granted the required boon.

For the information of those others who may have been as much surprised as ourselves at the extraordinary concourse of visitors to the *soirée* of the Microscopical Society a short time ago, we are enabled to state that the vast majority of the tickets issued (more than 3,000), were paid for at the rate of one shilling each, and that the society cleared as much as 75*l.* by the transaction, and that, too, after defraying the expense of the tea and coffee consumed on the occasion, besides paying 2*l.* 10*s.* for the use of the gas, attendance, &c., in the South Kensington Museum. The usual charge to societies on such occasions is, we are told, 5*l.*, which was reduced by one-half to the Microscopical, on account of its being so very poor. Its members took a bold step, we must say, to recruit its finances.

One of the most extraordinary feats in the way of publishing that has ever been achieved is that just completed by the Commissioners of Patents, who, since their enrolment by Act of Parliament (15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83), have published all the patents granted in this kingdom from the time of JAMES I. downwards. These amount in number, from the year 1617 (the date of the first patent) to September, 1852 (that of the last under the old law), to as many as 14,359; besides which, there have been also printed and published all the patents granted since the passing of the new law down to the present time, amounting to nearly 18,000. This makes the sum total about 32,000, copies of which have been liberally distributed to different public libraries both at home and abroad. Neither is all this a rude and undigested mass, for to facilitate reference there are copious indexes of various kinds published by the Commissioners, to accompany the specifications. Much is due for the successful issue of this great labour to the energy and perseverance of Mr. BENNET WOODCROFT, who has been intrusted with the general direction of the work. We are not aware how many copies of each specification have been issued, but calculating them at only one hundred copies, this would give the enormous number of three million two hundred thousand copies. What work must there have been here for the paper-makers, the printers, and the lithographers! Of the toil and anxiety, the weary hours, restless nights, and disappointed hopes of the vast majority among these thirty-two thousand inventors we almost shudder to think. As it may be interesting to some of our readers to know what was the very first patent of invention granted in this country, we give its title as follows: "2nd March, 1617.—A privilege granted to AARON RAPBURNE, gent., and ROGER BURGESS, for terme of xxi. yeares next, of the sole making, describing, carving, and gravings in copper, brasse, or other metall, all such and soe manie mappes, plotts, or descriptions of Lond., Westm., Bristol, Norwich, Canterbury, Bath, Oxford, and Cambridge, and the towne and castle of Windsor, and to imprint and sett forth and sell the same." While upon this subject we may state that at the Patent Office there is now a library of some thousands of volumes, principally relating to science and inventions, and receiving constant additions, admission to which may be obtained, we believe, without any difficulty. Such a library, however, ought to be open at night, if the public is to reap from it any great advantage.

FRIEDRICH HEINRICH ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

VON HUMBOLDT was born at Berlin on September 14th, 1769.

His family belonged to the nobility of Pomerania, and possessed landed estates, but his father Major GEORG VON HUMBOLDT, who was aide-de-camp to the Duke of BRUNSWICK during the Seven Years' War, and afterwards chamberlain to the King of PRUSSIA, had more reason to be proud of his two illustrious sons than of a long line of ancestry. His mother also was noble; for she was cousin to the Princess BLUCHER, and was the widow of Baron VON HOLWEDE when Major VON HUMBOLDT married her.

It is not necessary here to dwell upon the fame and achievements of his elder brother WILHELM. ALEXANDER is in himself a subject almost too vast for so brief a memoir. He was educated at Tegel, one of the paternal estates, and was originally intended for employment in the government mines. Among his early instructors were CAMPE and CHRISTIAN KUNTH the distinguished scholar, who entertained through life the liveliest friendship for his celebrated pupil. With his brother WILHELM he went to Berlin to complete his education, where he learnt Greek from LÖFFLER and FISCHER, botany from WILDERNOW, and political economy and philosophy from KLEIN and DOHM.

The years 1786 to 1788 were spent in the University of Frankfurt; after which he went to Göttingen, where the teachings of BLUMENBACH, HEINE, and EICHHORN imbued him with a taste for the study of natural sciences, philosophy, and history. It was in 1789 that he wrote what is believed to have been his first literary production—a treatise on weaving as practised by the Greeks. It is not certain, however, whether or not this was ever printed. At Göttingen he met with GEORGE FORSTER, the traveller who accompanied Captain COOK in one of his voyages round the world, and it was from his conversations

with this man that he first acquired the desire, which afterwards became unconquerable with him, to travel into remote countries. In 1790 he took a journey with FOSTER on the Rhine, for the purpose of scientific exploration, and the results were published in a volume on "Basalts of the Rhine, with Inquiries as to the Sienite and Basanite of the Ancients" (Mineralogische Beobachtungen über einige Basalte am Rhein. Berlin, 1790). In his excellent memoir of HUMBOLDT, prepared for the Royal Society in 1852, on the occasion of conferring the COPLEY medal upon the great philosopher, and printed in the Proceedings of that society, Admiral SMYTH mentions that a presentation copy of this work was in the possession of Mr. SOLLY, with an inscription on the title-page in the handwriting of HUMBOLDT himself, dated the 26th of November, 1790, and worded in such a manner as to prove that even then he was a very good English scholar. The Admiral also states that he had been told of a paper on Chemical Agriculture which was written by the philosopher about this date, but gives no definite information respecting it. In the same year, HUMBOLDT went to Hamburg for the purpose of increasing his acquaintance with modern languages; and from thence he proceeded to the Mining School at Freiberg, where he attended the lectures of the great WERNER, the father of modern geology. For several years after this he held responsible offices in the mines of Bayreuth and Anspach. During all this time he continued to make fresh conquests in the empire of knowledge; and no period of time was suffered to pass without leaving some trace behind of the intellectual activity in which it had been passed. In 1783 appeared his well-known "Flora Freibergensis subterranea;" and shortly afterwards appeared another work, entitled "Aphorismi ex Doctrina Physiologiae Chemicae Plantarum." We beg to call particular attention to the fact that these were two distinct works; because our contemporary, the *Athenæum*, in a memoir of HUMBOLDT, alleges the contrary to be the fact. At first sight it was not easy to understand how any one having the slightest pretension to scientific knowledge could suppose that HUMBOLDT would have treated of the fossil flora and the chemical physiology of plants in the same work; but a little inquiry led at once to the discovery that the memoir of the *Athenæum*, which is put forward as an original production, is nothing but a bald translation of the article "Humboldt" in VAPEREAU'S Dictionary; in which (though we must confess ourselves to be greatly indebted to it for many important facts) this and some other blunders occur which our contemporary has accepted without question. Of the "Aphorismi" Admiral SMYTH says that, "when we consider the time when it was produced, or the age of the author (twenty-three), it is truly remarkable; for in many things he has anticipated the chemists of more recent days, and, though of course incorrect in some points, is characterised by that comprehensive penetrating power and originality of observation which stamp all the researches of HUMBOLDT, and show that he never treated any material for knowledge in a cursory manner."

In 1796 HUMBOLDT lost his mother; a grievous loss, but it had the effect of making him his own master. He now resolved to carry out his plans of travel, and converting all his lands and chattels into money, he went to Italy to study volcanic phenomena at the foot of Vesuvius. Afterwards he went to Paris to purchase instruments. Thence he proceeded to Spain, accompanied by M. BONPLAND, the traveller and botanist, whose acquaintance he had made in Paris. His intention when he visited Spain was to proceed to Egypt, but at Madrid he obtained from the King permission to visit freely all the Spanish dominions in South America, and to make such observations as seemed necessary to him. In May, 1799, HUMBOLDT and BONPLAND embarked at Corunna, on board the frigate *Pizarro*, and, avoiding the English fleet then blockading the port, visited Tenerife, and arrived at Cumana on the 16th of July in the same year.

It is not necessary to do more than indicate the leading events of this great journey. Venezuela was explored, the Orinoco navigated in a canoe, and the mighty Amazon stemmed. In January, 1802, they were at Quito, and on the 23rd of June, in the same year, they achieved, accompanied by CARLOS MONTUFAR, the celebrated ascent of Chimborazo, to a height of 19,900 feet* above the level of the sea. Peru, Guayaquil, and Mexico were visited and explored in turn; after which HUMBOLDT visited Cuba, whence he returned to the United States, and quitted America in July, 1804, arriving at Bordeaux in August.

Referring to this great American expedition, Admiral SMYTH, in his memoir, says:

This arduous though voluntary task, which occupied Humboldt from 1799 to 1804, has left an undying proof of the extensive views of his exploration, and bears unequivocal testimony to his versatile acquirements, his mental activity, and his indomitable energy of purpose; for in that comparatively brief space of time he earned the title of moral discoverer of the New World; no individual having ever before collected so much exact information in the physics, natural history, and economical resources of the vast countries he visited. By this undertaking, the illustrious traveller contributed, in an unexampled degree, to the improvement of the highest as well as the more general departments of science; and the results he arrived at have formed a standard of excellence by which the most meritorious of our present race of inquirers into the physics

* This should be another warning to our contemporary as to the use to be made of the materials collected from biographical and other dictionaries. Vapereau states that Humboldt ascended to the height of "6,072 mètres au dessus du niveau de la mer." His translator (not having at hand, we presume, the figures necessary to convert mètres into English feet) looked out the height of Chimborazo, and finding 21,420 feet given, jumped at the conclusion that it was to this altitude that the party reached. We need hardly add, however, that neither Humboldt nor any one else has yet ascended to that height.

of the globe advance. With an eye and mind intent on matter during this memorable survey, he created the geography of plants, and beside assigning the limits of vegetation, he traced those of perpetual snow. Aided by his regretted friend, M. Bonpland, the herbal which he brought from Mexico is one of the richest in exotic plants that ever was transported to Europe, containing no fewer than 6,300 different species; and while Bonpland depicted the new specimens of a hitherto all but unknown vegetable world, the Baron directed his strong power of combination towards the laws of botanical life, and their relations to the earth itself—thus revealing how the number, form, and local distribution of plants must vary according to the constitution of the different zones from the pole to the equator, and from the mountain summits to the depths of the mine and the bottom of the sea. He also gave the first impulse to a philosophical scrutiny of that very important branch of natural history—the local distribution of animal genera and species independently of the effects of climate. He was the first who noticed the gradual depression of the barometer when proceeding from either tropic towards the equator, in consequence of the constant afflux of heated air upwards. He also gave a lively and general excitement to the study of terrestrial magnetism, in having, besides his valuable contributions to it, verified, conjointly with Gay-Lussac, Biot's theory on the position of the magnetic equator, and the progressive diminution of the magnetic power in proportion as we depart from the terrestrial equator.

For nearly twenty years after his return from America HUMBOLDT took up his residence in Paris, despite (it is said) the most brilliant offers and earnest solicitations of his own government. His principal motive for this was that he might superintend the issue of the magnificent works which resulted from his American expedition. These works which appeared continuously between 1805 and 1820, were as follows:

1. *Voyage aux Régions Équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent, pendant les années 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, et 1804.* Paris, 1807.
2. *Atlas Géographique et Physique du Nouveau Continent.*
3. *Vues des Cordillères et Monumens des Peuples Indigènes de l'Amérique.*
4. *Recueil d'Observations Astronomiques, et de Mesures exécutées dans le Nouveau Continent.*
5. *Essai sur la Géographie des Plantes.*
6. *Tableau Physique des Régions Équinoxiales.*
7. *Plantes Équinoxiales, recueillies au Mexique, Cuba, &c.*
8. *Monographie de Melastomes.* (By Bonpland.)
9. *Nova Genera et Species Plantarum.*
10. *Recueil d'Observations de Zoologie et d'Anatomie comparées.*
11. *Essai Politique sur la Nouvelle Espagne.*
12. *De distributione Geographica Plantarum, secundum cæli temperiem, et altitudinem montium.*

In the scientific parts of this congeries of *magna opera*, HUMBOLDT received most valuable assistance from OLTMAANS, in astronomy; ARAGO and GAY-LUSSAC, in chemistry and mineralogy; CUVIER and LATREILLE, in zoology; VAUQUELIN and KLAPROTH, in mineralogy; and KUNTH, in botany.

At length, in 1827, HUMBOLDT left Paris and returned to his native country, where he at once became the revered of the people, the admired of philosophers, and the friend and companion of his sovereign. Probably no scientific man, whose social position was based upon mere science, ever mounted so high in the scale as HUMBOLDT. In the winter of 1827 he delivered at Berlin his celebrated course of lectures entitled "Kosmos," which afterwards served as the foundation of his great work so-called. In 1829, having attained the age of sixty, he once more set forth upon a great voyage, this time making the eastern provinces of Russia and Central Asia the theatre of his explorations. This expedition was conducted under the auspices of the Czar NICHOLAS; and the venerable traveller was accompanied throughout by GUSTAVE ROSE, the mineralogist, and CHRISTIAN GOTTFRIED EHRENBERG, the celebrated microscopic naturalist. In the journey, HUMBOLDT himself undertook the astronomical, magnetic, physical, and geognostic observations, whilst EHRENBERG attended to the botany and zoology, and ROSE to the chemistry, the mineralogy, and the editorship of the journal kept by the travellers. The expedition started from St. Petersburg on the 20th of May, 1829, accompanied by M. MENSCHENIN, the Russian engineer, who acted as interpreter and guide. In nine months 2,320 geographical miles were traversed between the capital, the Chinese frontier, and the Caspian Sea, and the results appeared in HUMBOLDT's work, "Asie Centrale, recherches sur les chaînes des montagnes et la climatologie comparée." (Paris, 1843. 3 vols.) Rose also published his inquiries as "Mineralogisch-geognostische Reise nach dem Ural, dem Altai, und dem Kaspischen Meer." Berlin, 1837-1842. 2 vols. (Mineralogical and Geognostical Travels on the Oural and Altai, and on the Caspian Sea.) Among other important results of this journey may be included the establishment of magnetical and meteorological observatories in Russia.

From 1830 to 1848 HUMBOLDT lived alternately in Paris and Berlin. His intimacy with FREDERICK WILLIAM III. compelled him, much against his inclination, to interfere from time to time in political matters, and on the accession of LOUIS-PHILIPPE he was specially sent to become acquainted with that monarch on behalf of the Prussian Government. In 1835 he lost his brother WILHELM, and the loss of this beloved brother was acutely felt by him. In 1848 he took up his abode finally in Berlin, where he continued to live in peaceful retirement, enjoying the intimacy of his sovereign, who, whatever may be said of him, has been one of the most accomplished and enlightened gentlemen in Europe, and zealous patron of the pursuits which his subject had so long and so successfully followed. In the words of Dr. HOFFMANN, "the monarch of science was daily the beloved guest of the Royal circle, and the King himself, by all signs of respect, confidence, and attachment, honoured the man revered by all the world."

During the later years of his life he was mainly occupied with the composition of what is by some considered to be his greatest work:

Kosmos: Entwurf einer physischen Weltbeschreibung (Cosmos: an attempt at a Physical Description of the World). Stuttgart and Berlin, 1847-51.

This work, which he has left unfinished, is well known in this country by the excellent translation executed by Mrs. Sabine, and also that by M. Otté. It was the result of that faculty for generalising knowledge which was one of the leading and most valuable characteristics of this great man. It has been objected to HUMBOLDT, by some of the experts in science, that he was perfect in no one branch, and perhaps that may be true. The chemists may find something to object to in his chemistry, the astronomers in his astronomy, and the philologists in his philology; but no man knew so much about all these subjects as he did. And the value of such a mind to the army of science cannot be over-estimated; for it partakes, in a degree, of the character of the commanding mind, which is not so thoroughly conversant with details as many a subordinate, but yet is capable of controlling and directing the whole. From the altitude on which he stood he could not examine the details of knowledge as closely as many who stood far beneath him; but what a magnificent, what an extended prospect lay at his feet! Speaking of his own tendency to generalise, he seems to have had a very noble conception of the true value of that faculty. "Although," said he, "the outward relations of life, and the various branches of knowledge, led me to occupy myself for many years, and to all appearance exclusively, with particular objects of study—as botany, geognosy, astronomical geography, and terrestrial magnetism—in preparation for an extensive scheme of travel, I had ever before me a more especial and higher motive for these attainments. My leading impulse was, the endeavour to comprehend the phenomena of physical objects in their general connection, and to view Nature as one great whole, moved and animated by internal forces." Of the works of HUMBOLDT not hitherto mentioned we can but give a list. To offer any comment upon them would extend this memoir beyond all reasonable bounds. These, as they are given by VAPEREAU and other biographers, were:

Versuch über die chemische Zerlegung des Luftkreises, &c. Brunswick, 1779. (Essay on the Chemical Analysis of the Atmosphere, and on certain objects of Natural History.)

Ideen einer Physiognomik der Gewächse. Tübingen, 1806. (Physiognomy of Plants.)

Melastomatologia, sive descriptio Melastomati et generum affinium. Cassel and Paris, 1808.

Ansichten der Natur. Tübingen and Stuttgart, 1818. (Tableau of Nature.)

Conspectus longitudinum et latitudinum geographicarum per decursum annorum 1799 ad 1814, astronomia observatorum. Cassel, 1808.

Versuch über die electrischen Fische. Erfurt, 1808. (Essay on Electric Fishes.)

Ideen zu einer Geographie der Pflanzen. Vienna, 1811. (Essay on the Geography of Plants, or a Physical Tableau of the Equinoctial Regions, founded upon Observations and Measurements made from the 10th deg. N. Lat.)

De Naturali familia graminum. Paris, 1817.

De Distributione geographica plantarum secundum caltemperiem et altitudinem montium prolegomena. Paris, 1817.

Des Lignes Isothermes et de la distribution de la chaleur sur le globe. Paris, 1817.

Essai géographique sur le gisement des rochers dans les deux hémisphères. Paris and Strasbourg, 1823.

Observations sur quelques phénomènes peu connus qu'offre le goitre sous les tropiques dans les plaines et les plateaux des Andes. Paris, 1828.

Über den Bau und die Wirklichkeit der Vulkane, &c. (On the Constitution and Effects produced by Volcanoes in different parts of the Terrestrial Globe.) Heidelberg, 1824.

Evaluation numérique de la Population du Nouveau Continent, considérée sous le rapport de la différence des cultes, des races, et des idiomes. Paris, 1825.

Bericht über die naturhistorischen Reisen von E. und H. durch Egypten, &c. (An Account of a Scientific Journey by Ehrenberg and Hemperich across Egypt, from 1820 to 1825.) Berlin, 1826.

* * * This was written in collaboration with several other savants.

Essai politique sur l'île de Cuba. Paris, 1827.

Über die Hauptursachen der Temperaturverschiedenheit auf dem Erdkörper. (Principal causes of difference in Temperature in different parts of the Terrestrial Globe.)

Fragments de Géologie et de Climatologie asiatique. Paris, 1831.

Tableau statistique de l'île de Cuba, pour les années 1825 à 1829. Paris, 1831.

Astronomische und hypsométrische Grundlagen der Erdbeschreibung. (The Astronomical and Hypsometrical Bases of Geography.) Stuttgart and Tübingen, 1831.

Examen critique de l'histoire de la Géographie du Nouveau Continent et des progrès de l'Astronomie Nautique aux XVI^e et XVII^e siècles. Paris, 1836-38.

Pétrifications recueillies en Amérique, décrites par Leopold de Buch. Berlin, 1839.

Geognostische und physikalische Erinnerungen. (Geognostic and Physical Souvenirs.) Vol. I. Stuttgart, 1853.

Besides an almost countless number of pamphlets, articles, reports, and discourses.

Perhaps the most important and lasting benefit which HUMBOLDT rendered to science, was the use which he made of his position to promote those extended observations as to the physical conditions of our planet which his extended knowledge and his travels had taught him were necessary before meteorology and many other branches of natural science can approach a satisfactory state. Nothing short of the sanction of sovereigns and the co-operation of governments could have carried out such schemes as the necessity demanded, and these HUMBOLDT obtained. His services in this direction are gracefully and

gratefully alluded to by Admiral SMYTH in his memoir already quoted:

In touching on the time and manner of a more particular relation between this society and Von Humboldt, I must remind the council of those important and interesting occult curves over the surface of the earth which are designated isothermal lines, because in producing them they each pass through a series of points at which the mean annual temperature of the air is the same. This useful scheme was first suggested by the Baron, who determined those points from the best obtainable registers of observed temperatures in Europe, and from the numerous observations made by himself and other meteorologists in different regions of the world; thereby introducing another branch into that cycle of facts and theories which are slowly unveiling the physical constitution of our planet. These curves, of course, excited the attention of physicists, and on closely examining their protraction in 1820, Sir David Brewster came to the momentous conclusion that a connection would be found existing between the thermal and the magnetic poles. But it was evident that researches must be greatly multiplied, and in both hemispheres, before the data could be deemed sufficient for an inference in which full confidence can be placed; for terrestrial magnetism being equally amenable to observation and experiment, requires the assemblage and discussion of operations over the whole globe, while to support the theory such observanda should extend over long periods of time.

After his return to Europe, Humboldt conceived the project of minutely examining, with instruments superior to those he had hitherto used, the diurnal changes of the magnetic variation. He therefore, at the equinoxes of 1806 and 1807, watched the alterations of the horizontal needle every half-hour during several days, and their intervening nights. Under this onerous employment his attention was drawn to frequent and capricious oscillations of the magnet, which were evidently owing to no accidental or mechanical cause. To these sudden disturbances of the electrical equilibrium—then regarding them as indications of a reaction from the interior to the earth's surface—he gave the name of *magnetic storms*, in analogy to the rapid changes of tension which take place during thunderstorms. In consequence of this singular discovery, the Baron became anxious to obtain corresponding observations from distant places; but it was not till the year 1818 that the question received further elucidation. It was then ascertained, by a reduced comparison of simultaneous hourly records at Paris by M. Arago, and at Kasan by M. Kupffer, that those perturbations were in fact synchronous; and we now know, by exact methods, that the needle is agitated at the same instant of time at the most distant stations, regardless of intervening seas, whence inference assumes that the same occurs over the whole globe. Yet, notwithstanding the magnitude of this discovery, it was sluggishly followed up, and its vitality is entirely owing to the continual zeal and personal influence of Von Humboldt, who persevered till he procured the establishment of several magnetical observatories in Europe and Northern Asia. Seeing, however, that the inquiry involved a world-wide extension of his system of simultaneous registry, he in April, 1836, appealed to this society in a letter to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, then its president. This letter, you will remember, attracted the gravest attention of the council, and being referred to the Astronomer Royal and Mr. Christie, produced the admirable report of the 26th of June, 1836, which is printed in the third volume of our Proceedings (pp. 418-428). Now the declared opinions and anticipations of those referees, as conveyed in that valuable document, have been fully confirmed in the fruits obtained by the liberal erection of the suggested magnetic stations, as our Transactions abundantly testify; nor ever were observations of the class more systematically discussed, or better reported upon, than these have been by our indefatigable treasurer.

It is well known that since the illness of the King of Prussia, HUMBOLDT has been seized with presentiments of his coming end, and it is even said he repeatedly spoke of this year as the last of his life. After several fits of apoplexy, he was seized with influenza in October, 1858, and on the 21st of April last, he had to take to his bed. At half past two o'clock on Friday, the 6th of May, he died, peaceful and without pain, at the great age of eighty-nine years and eight months.

Of HUMBOLDT's appearance the portrait which accompanies this memoir will serve to give a good idea. His aspect was so noble that those who did not know who he was would stand and gaze at him as he passed, impressed with the conviction that he was a remarkable man. A good sketch of his manner and conversation at an advanced age was given by Mr. J. L. STEPHENS, an American, the author of "Incidents of Travel." This gentleman visited HUMBOLDT in 1847, and gave the following account of the event in the *New York Literary World*, for 2nd October, 1847. He found this great philosopher living in retirement at Potsdam as the actual friend and companion of the King:

"He is now [said he] nearly eighty, but has the appearance of being some years younger. In stature he is rather under than above middle size, with a frame probably in youth well fitted for the hardships of his arduous travels. His head might serve as a study for a craniologist; his face is broad, and his eye remarkable for its intellect and expression. He was dressed in a plain suit of black, without ribbons or decorations of any kind, and his apartments corresponded with the simplicity of his personal appearance. He was debilitated from an attack of illness, but the vigour and elasticity of his mind were unimpaired. He spoke English with much fluency, but with an accent."

The subjects of conversation are then touched upon: the ruined cities of America, the line of main steamers to Bremen, the German railways, personal acquaintances, politics, and Mexico. Speaking of the last:

"He spoke of Mr. Prescott's 'History of the Conquest,' and said that I might, when the opportunity served, say to that gentleman as from himself, 'that there was no historian of the age, in England or Germany, equal to him.'"

This was probably a little piece of flattery on HUMBOLDT's part, skillfully administered to the *amour propre* of the American.

His personal amiability and charities were such that, whilst science has lost in him one of its greatest chiefs, the poor of Berlin have lost their greatest friend. For some time before his death, it was his custom, on Saturday afternoon, to hold a *levée* of indigent persons, among whom he would divide all the money he had left of his weekly income, and when the last kreuzer was gone he would show the empty drawer to the remaining applicants with, "You see I have no more; you must come next Saturday." Speaking of this phase of his character, Dr. HOFFMANN, in his eloquent funeral oration on him, said:

Many others who revered him as a benefactor will cherish his memory in secret. I refrain from embodying in words all that might be said on this head. The deceased, in his innumerable deeds of love, kept his right hand ignorant of what his left hand did, and was unwilling to bring to light that which he took so much pains to conceal. I know what he did in this respect, but far better it is known to Him who does not forget the cup of water given to a disciple in His name.

Truly has it been said of him that, he was not only respected and revered on account of his intellectual powers and dignity, he was also loved.

During his life, honours without number, such as the present world can give, were bestowed upon this great man, and yet so careless was he of such distinctions, that it is said when his effects were examined, a great number of decorations, which he had received from the sovereigns of all countries, were found lying pell-mell in a cupboard. He did not die rich, leaving indeed little behind him but his library and his personal chattels. These he has left to his servant SEIFFERT, who had lived with him and served him thirty-three years. SEIFFERT was appointed some time ago guardian of a royal palace, but was permitted to serve his master so long as the latter lived. It is said that the nephews of HUMBOLDT, who were his only legal heirs, had set seals upon the property after their uncle's death, but upon this donation to SEIFFERT being made known, they cheerfully admitted its validity. The manuscripts, which are said to include a geographical work of greater extent than any that has yet been published, are not included in the donation to SEIFFERT, and some gifts to personal friends are also expressly excepted. The library, of which a great deal has been said, is extensive, but is not so valuable as is commonly supposed. As HUMBOLDT had access to the Royal collections he was not much in the habit of buying books, but the number of presentation copies sent to him from all parts of the world, with inscriptions upon the fly-leaves by the authors themselves, was extraordinary. The consequence was that the collection is very miscellaneous in its composition, and that the books derive more value from the autographs they contain than from any intrinsic qualities of their own.

Reverting once more to the eloquent oration which Dr. HOFFMANN pronounced over the tomb of this, one of Germany's best and wisest sons, we may say that "though German at heart, he was too great a man to belong to one country exclusively."

οὐκ ἔστιν ὃς λήγει πολλὰ καμπυλῶς γίγαν.

LIEBIG'S FAMILIAR LETTERS.

Familiar Letters on Chemistry in its relations to Physiology, Dietetics, Agriculture, Commerce, and Political Economy. By JUSTUS VON LIEBIG. Fourth edition, revised and corrected. Edited by JOHN BLYTH, M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Queen's College, Cork. London: Walton and Maberly.

IN RESUMING OUR NOTICE of Baron Liebig's book, we may as well say that, being in its fourth edition, our readers are presupposed to be acquainted with the major, and perhaps the more interesting, portion of its contents. We shall proceed, therefore, to cite a few passages from the new matter we find in the present edition, though even now a good deal will be left unnoticed. The following on the laws of belief, though in itself commonplace, is a good example of our author's style, and equally characteristic of the material turn of his mind:

We believe in the events, circumstances, and facts which are asserted by trustworthy persons, if they are not opposed to the laws of nature, or if their effects have been in any way or at any time observed by us on other trustworthy persons. We believe in the existence of Julius Caesar, whom we have never seen, not only because he was seen by his contemporaries, but because his existence is established by occurrences, manifested by their effects, centuries after, in the history of mankind. We do not believe in ghosts, though thousands are said to have seen them, because the laws of light teach us that even a material body of a certain degree of fineness—as atmospheric air, for example—cannot be seen, and because an unsubstantial being no longer possesses the property of reflecting light, which is essential to its becoming visible. The species of faith, or credulity, which leads to the belief in ghosts, belongs not to science; it is the worst enemy to knowledge; for by knowledge it is destroyed. [Is not the latter part of this sentence a *non sequitur*?] The explanations of phenomena given by natural philosophers of our day are widely different from those of former times. The present race of inquirers pay no attention whatever to the most subtle creations of the mind; they regard as their object only that species of knowledge which is required by unwearying perseverance and labour. When a philosopher of our day wishes to explain a phenomenon, such as the burning of a candle, the growth of a plant, the freezing of water, the bleaching of a colour, the rusting of iron, he puts the question, not to himself—not to his own mind, but to the phenomenon—to the part itself. He asks what circumstances precede, what follow this phenomenon? The former he calls the cause or condition of the phenomenon, the latter is designated the effect.

From this passage it is pretty evident that, though a German, the Spirit-rappers have little chance of including Baron Liebig in their list of distinguished converts. But, however this may turn out eventually, it appears to us that the main illustration cited above is scarcely a happy one. For example; a perfectly colourless piece of glass, however thick, may be placed so as not to reflect, whilst it would fully transmit light; therefore, though in itself one of the most substantial of bodies, under these circumstances it would be perfectly invisible. But apart from this, since the remarkable, though obscure, physical discovery of allotropy (literally the different natures assumed by the same body), and we may add that of the polarisation of light, arguments drawn from physical analogies for the purpose of putting down spiritualism, are far less easily found than formerly.

In Letter XIII. we have some interesting new matter on the co-relation—or, practically speaking, the identity—of all the physical forces. After putting down the perpetual-motion projectors with the old arguments, our author proceeds to discuss and explain this new doctrine. He appears to give the credit of its discovery to Dr. Mayer, a countryman of his own. Whatever may be its ultimate value as a mere generalisation, we certainly remember to have seen something very like it in a work written several years ago by Mr. Grove. The abstract of this doctrine, given by Liebig in the letter from which we are about to quote, is to the effect, that all the physical forces we are acquainted with—such as every species of electricity and magnetism, together with mechanical and vital force, including heat, in a word, all the imponderable forces, whether residing in animals, plants, or inanimate matter—have their uniform origin *ab initio* in solar light. The arguments we have here, as well as those we have seen adduced elsewhere in support of this very startling doctrine, are not only interesting, but they carry with them a certain degree of plausible force not easy to gainsay. For ourselves, we are far from being convinced of their absolute correctness, ingenious as they are, but it would be out of place to urge at any length the nature of our objections here. However, the arguments are viewed favourably, if not adopted, by Professor Liebig. Commencing with the force exhibited by the steam-engine, with the view of showing mechanical force to be only another form of heat, he says:

The work of a steam-engine is executed by the movement of a piston upwards and downwards by the pressure of steam, just as a water-wheel is moved by the pressure of water. The cause of this pressure is *heat*, which is derived from the chemical process of combustion, and is absorbed by water. By this heat steam is procured, and the necessary expansion obtained for the movement of the piston. It is heat in this last form which performs the mechanical work of the machine. . . . According to Dr. Mayer, forces are causes in which full application of the axiom must be found, that every cause must produce an effect which correspond and is equal to the cause. *Causa aequal effectum*. . . . In numberless cases we see a motion cease without its usual effects being produced, such as lifting a weight or load; but, as the force which has caused the motion cannot be reduced to nothing, the question arises—What form has it assumed? Experience gives the answer by showing that wherever motion is arrested by friction, a blow, or concussion, *heat is the result. The motion is the cause of the heat.*

After adducing several other striking instances where force and heat appear to be alternately resolved into each other, with the view of showing that the same force may be converted into electricity, he further says:

The working power of a machine, set in motion by electricity, can be expressed by numbers in the same way as the mechanical effect of heat. An electrical current is generated by a rotating magnet, or by a solution of zinc in the galvanic battery. Such a current in circulating through a thick or thin wire exhibits the same deportment as a fluid flowing through a wide or narrow tube. As a given quantity of fluid requires more time or greater pressure to pass through a narrow tube than through a large, so a thin wire offers a greater resistance than a thick one to the passage of a current of electricity. The current is thus restored and diminished, one portion only passing through the conductor, the other being converted into heat.

It is in that part of the last line which we have put in italics, that we think the weak point of this doctrine lies. May not this supposed conversion of the electricity into heat, after all, amount only to a simple displacement of the latent heat necessarily resident in the wire while in its normal state, but displaced by the superabundant electricity forced into it from the battery? For example: on forcing a rod into a sponge filled with water, on witnessing the drops oozing from it in consequence, one might as well say that the rod itself was being converted into water, as that electricity in this instance was converted into heat.

Again, if light becomes converted into heat or electricity on being absorbed by metals, or organic bodies, pray what becomes of the recent discoveries of Moser, Niepce, and others, which certainly appear to show that light after absorption may be recovered—nay, that it spontaneously emanates from those bodies—as light? Surely, if it suffers this supposed conversion into heat or electricity, that fact alone would appear to preclude its subsequent elimination in any other form. To believe otherwise, would be, in familiar phraseology, to "eat our cake and have it too." Though possibly to this it might be replied, that the light drawn from these bodies by recent discoverers is that only which has been absorbed adventitiously, and remains, therefore, unconverted, or, in chemical language, "free," but that the light which has suffered conversion into these more tangible imponderables, is that absorbed by the metal or plant at its formation. To this line of argument we should only say that there is not a tittle of real evidence in its support.

If we remember correctly, Newton said once, that so far were the ultimate atoms of the most apparently solid bodies apart, that it was hardly beyond the bounds of legitimate speculation to believe that if they were made to touch each other, all those of our earth might be comprised within the compass of a cubic inch! Without being called to go thus far, we do know absolute material contact to be impossible; can we not therefore legitimately believe that there is interstitial space substituting between the ultimate atoms of all bodies, sufficiently ample to lodge the whole of the heat, electricity, and magnetism in dispute, as well as vital force and light?

As we are far from being unfriendly to this theory, we hope, for its credit, these and other objections we could name, can be easily answered. To show, however, that we have by no means misstated the case, it will, perhaps, be more satisfactory to let our author speak for himself in an additional passage or two. Following up the same line of argument, he says:

If the electrical current circulates through a wire wound spirally round a bar of iron, the latter is converted into a powerful magnet capable of attracting and carrying several hundredweights of iron. *The electrical is thus converted into the magnetic force*, by which a machine may be set in motion. The power of attraction communicated to the iron bar is in exact proportion to the amount of electricity circulating in the surrounding wire, and this current is again dependent on the property of the conductor. That portion of electricity which in the conductor is converted into heat produces no power of attraction in the iron bar.

With regard to force itself in the abstract, our author says:

If, according to the materialists, matter is indestructible, the same holds good with regard to force. It is not extinguished: its apparent annihilation, its disappearance, is only its conversion into some other form. [The italics in these passages are ours.]

As we have already intimated, this theory assumes that all earthly force—that is to say, the *vis*, in contradistinction to the *inertia*, of all matter, whatever shape it assumes—has its origin in the light which emanates to us from the sun. Whatever amount of truth, or even plausibility, attaches to this generalisation at present, previous to the introduction of photography it would have had little chance of being gravely heard. We can now, however, readily concede light to be, at least, something more than, as formerly believed, a mere condition of things:

We now know (says Liebig) the origin of the heat and light which warm and illuminate our dwellings, of the heat and power generated in our bodies by the vital process. Plants are the one source of all materials used for the production of heat and light, and of that nourishment which must be daily taken to maintain the phenomena of vitality. . . . Without the light of the sun plants cannot grow. The living germ, the green leaf, owe to the sun their power of transforming earthy elements into living vigorous structures. The germ may, indeed, be evolved under ground without the action of light, but only when it breaks through the surface of the soil does it first acquire the power by the sun's rays, of converting inorganic elements into its own structure. The illuminating and heating rays of the sun, in thus bestowing life, lose their own light and heat. Their power now becomes latent in the new products of the frame, which have been produced under their influence from carbonic acid, water, and ammonia. The light and heat with which our dwellings are illuminated and warmed are but those bestowed by the sun.

In short, it is meant to be said, almost in as many words, that coal is nothing more than solidified sunbeams.

At the same time, we scarcely know how this can be made to tally with the received geological doctrine, which goes to show that, during the period of the earth's history in which coal was formed, the light that reached the gigantic vegetation of those days had far less intensity than it has in ours. In fact, that the broadest daylight was a species of twilight, as compared with the state of things existing at present. This, it is said by geologists, with a great deal of probability, arose from the sun's rays being interrupted by a dense atmosphere of carbonic acid.

We now turn from this interesting topic to one scarcely less so—the development theory, as promulgated by the author of the “*Vestiges*.” We find it discussed at some length, though in no friendly spirit, in another of the new letters given in the present edition. One would have believed, *a priori*, that the philosopher whose generalisations were capable of reducing all the multifarious forces of nature into a sunbeam, would have had more sympathy with a brother author who has only gone the length of reducing the origin of all organic nature to a single cell. Though the “*Vestiges*” as a book is not even named, it is abundantly evident from the following passages that Baron Liebig intends to fall foul of its author, whoever he may be. He says:

The opponents of this opinion [i.e. the believers in the doctrine of the “*Vestiges*”] are easily seen to be total strangers to all investigations connected with chemical and physical forces. No well-informed natural philosopher or chemist has ever ranged himself on their side. If we refer the question to our great physiologists, to whom we are indebted for the discovery of those facts on which the opponents of a vital force found their assertions, these masters of science will reply that such assertions are utterly without foundation. They are the speculations of amateurs, who assume the right, after a very slight acquaintance with the investigation of natural phenomena, of expounding to an ignorant and credulous public the wonders of creation and of life, and of setting forth to them what progress has been attained in the highest departments on science. And such ignorant and presumptuous dreamers are listened to more readily than the most philosophic inquirer. These amateurs maintain that in the course of an infinite series of years, which they dispose of with a dash of their pen, the vast variety presented in the organic creation was gradually developed from the lowest form of organisation—a simple cell. Plants and animals formed an unbroken chain, and transitions from the one to the other could not be disputed. . . . This one cell, they tell us, was called into existence by the fiat of the Creator, and all the others developed from it. This school of physiologists thus presume that it was more conformable to the purposes of the Creator to bestow vitality on this one cell rather than on many, and, having created, to leave to time and chance the full unfolding and development of organic matter from this one cell.

That all this is unequivocally intended for the unlucky author of the “*Vestiges*,” and his some ten or twelve editions, there need be no doubt.

In another of the new letters we find a subject referred to of the greatest interest to chemical science. It is that of “the alteration of the properties of bodies,” or, in technical language, “Allotropy.” But recently, it was held as one of the fundamental doctrines of chemistry, that all bodies manifested the same chemical qualities, varying only with the known conditions due to their solid, liquid, or gaseous state. We find this to be so no longer; *nous avons changé tout cela*. Now, one body, like a man, may be “made to play many parts.” For example, that same phosphorus which, in the days of our youth, we dared hardly touch with unprotected hands, may now be rolled into pellets, or kneaded like a bit of glazier's putty, in the naked hand, with comparative impunity. Even this one unlooked-for example of

allotropy has already revolutionised for the better the trade of lucifer-match making. But this change of property is far from being confined to phosphorus. Oxygen—that substance of which nearly a third of the solid crust of our globe is made up, and of which (perhaps beyond others) chemists were supposed to know the most—is now found under certain conditions to change its state, and when so, to become practically a new substance, which has been termed ozone. The facts in connection with this new conditions of things begin to show us that the speculations of the alchemists with regard to the transmutation of bodies were by no means irrational, considering the state of science in their day.

Ozonised oxygen [says Liebig] differs in its properties as widely from common oxygen as the latter does from chlorine. Common oxygen, as it exists in the atmosphere, has at the ordinary temperature less affinity for metals than is possessed by iodine. It neither decomposes iodides, nor enters into combination with iodine; it does not oxidise silver; it has no action in alcohol, nor on gaseous products with offensive odour; nor can it, by itself, exert any oxidising influence on ammonia or nitrogen. *Ozonised oxygen*, on the contrary, decomposes iodides and precipitates their iodine; and if there is excess of the gas present, it immediately enters into combination with the iodine to form an oxide. Ozonised oxygen converts metallic silver into the peroxide of that metal.

And, in the presence of common oxygen, we may add, silver is no more acted on than gold.

Though we had marked for extract several no less interesting passages than those we have given, even now our usual limits are exceeded. Those quoted, however, will amply justify our opinion of Baron Liebig's high merits as an author. Though his present book is, ostensibly, on chemistry, let no one unacquainted with the science be deterred from reading it on that account. In point of fact, it is no more intended for the chemist than one of Burford's panoramas for the architect, or Mr. Beverley's sunny scenes of fairyland for the student in landscape painting. To the general reader, however, we know of no more interesting or valuable book.

SPORTSMEN AND GENTLEMEN.

Newton Dogvane: a Tale of English Country Life. By FRANCIS FRANCIS. With Illustrations by LEECH. London: Hurst and Blackett. 3 vols. pp. 984.

SOME MONTHS AGO, whilst commenting upon the eccentric production of a writer calling himself “Scrutator,” who grossly caricatured, whilst he pretended to paint, that time-honoured character, the British Sportsman, we expressed our regret that so few real sportsmen, who were at the same time gentlemen, did not take the trouble to cultivate the accomplishment of writing in some more extended sense than is expressed by that difficult word *calligraphy*, for the purpose of setting fairly and truthfully before the world the qualities and characteristics of their class. We know that the sportsman may be, and often is, a polished gentleman; but nine times out of ten, when we meet with him in the pages of a novel, and above all, of a sporting novel, we find him a noisy, swaggering, brainless, boozing blackguard, with the manners of an ostler, the morals of a gamester, and the sobriety of a tapster—a creature who cares for nothing so much as his horse, except it be brandy-and-water, who is as ready to knock a man down as to shake hands with him, and who garnishes his discourse with a species of choice Italian—the reverse of agreeable to ears polite—as plentifully as any costermonger in the New-cut. Why is this? The answer is very simple: the painters draw indeed from the life—but it is their own life. Without particularising, we venture to say that the great majority of the writers of sporting novels from the Tom-and-Jerry days until now, arose from the very scum and riff-raff of the sporting world, from those professional sportsmen who infest even the noblest of British sports, from the fellows who are either too idle or too well-known to be able to embark in any regular occupation, and who have just enough of a coarse kind of wit to be tolerated by gentlemen in their cups, and allowed to administer to that innate love of the humorous which is one of the leading characteristics of English character. It is, perhaps, one of the most serious objections to sporting pursuits, that a too ardent addiction to them is apt to lead gentlemen into overlooking those boundaries which naturally and most wholesomely separate well-bred men from their inferiors. The skill, courage, and dexterity which are necessary to a successful sportsman may be, and indeed, too often are, allied to qualities the very reverse of honour and refinement; and the youthful sportsman is too prone, in his admiration for the sporting virtues, to overlook the danger arising from the contaminating influence of association with the concomitant vices.

It is precisely this vacuum in our fictitious literature that Mr. Francis, and writers like him supply. In the novel before us we have a clear and indisputable proof that we can have sport without blackguardism, and plenty of spirit without an atom of coarseness. For this we are much obliged to Mr. Francis, and we have no doubt that his brother sportsmen will be obliged to him as well.

Newton Dogvane is the name of a modest and simple youth, whose education from muff-hood into perfect sportsmanship, and whose promotion from a life of inaction in the City to one of sport and activity as a country gentleman, is fully related in this book. His chief instructor is his *fidus Achates* and schoolfellow, Ned Bowers, the son of a jolly squire. The *lessons* in life, and the byeways and dodges thereof, are made also lessons to the reader, and are, at the same time, used as vehicles for comic humour, of which

Mr. Francis appears to possess an exuberance. Newton's *début* in country life is under the auspices of the Bowers, and he loses no time in at once falling in love with Bessy Bowers, the pretty sister of his friend. Charlotte, the eldest, is already engaged to Captain Stevens, an officer, and gentleman, and sportsman, of whose cool and skilful courage some idea may be gathered from the following well-told encounter with a rustic Hector, whose favourite bull had been somewhat rudely handled by the Captain. We quote this, partly because it is really a very good scene, and partly because it will serve to give a better notion of Mr. Francis's style than the most prolonged description:

At this moment Captain Stevens and Ned entered, followed by Buncomb, who bore the basket of lunch with him. "You wanted to dust somebody's jacket just now, I believe," said Uncle Crabb to the Squire. "There's the gentleman who peppered your bull," pointing to the Captain. "Undertake him, if you like, and much good may it do you."—"I'll make an smart for it," growled the Squire.—"Will you? we shall see."—"We thought you'd need some lunch," said the Captain, "so, as we did not care to be so selfish as to lunch alone, we've brought the basket up with us. Move those glasses farther up, and clear this end of the table, Buncomb. Buncomb moved one or two, and was about pushing the Squire's gin-and-water a foot or two up the table to make room for the cloth. "Leave that glass bide!" thundered the Squire. "Eh!" said the Captain, looking with amazement at the angry giant. "Leave that glass be!"—"Oh! certainly, though you need not enforce your wishes quite so boisterously. There—that will not interfere with the gentleman's glass, Buncomb. Put the pie there—that's it;" and the Captain took his seat. The others moved towards the table, when the Squire, thinking he had at last found a fitting object to wreak his passion on, and fancying from the Captain's quiet submission that he was afraid of him, jumped up and slashed the table with his ash-stick, making the glasses jump and the room ring. "Now, then, you sir!" and he flourished the stick. "Mercy on us! Is the man out of his senses?" said the Captain. "What do you mean, sir? Are you talking to me?"—"Ah! you—devil a less! What do you mean by shooting at my bull?"—"Oh, bother your bull, if that remarkably dangerous animal by the water-side belongs to you."—"Bother my bull! But I'm bother'd if I don't bother you for bothering of him." All this said with a dogged determination to have a row. Nep gave a low growl. "Be quiet, Nep. Leave the gentleman's calves alone." The Squire winced a little, and looked down. "Sit down, sir; it's ill talking to a hungry man. You know the saying, 'A hungry man is an angry man.' I don't want to lose my temper and spoil my lunch. If you've anything to say, I'll attend to it after I have eaten. Pie, Charles? I don't know what they have done with the egg." And the Captain took no further notice of the Squire, but proceeded to forage the contents of the pie as coolly as if there had been no such person in existence as the Squire. The Squire sat down, muttering, "Ye won't get off like that, I tell ye. Temper, eod! I'll temper ye!" and he sat watching each morsel, until their lunch was ended, when the Captain, pouring out half a tumbler of sherry, filled it up with a little hot water, and added thereto a lump of sugar, and having tasted it to see that it was mixed to his entire satisfaction, lighted a cigar and began to smoke slowly and with the utmost composure. "Well!" said the Squire, who had bottled up his rage till it almost boiled over. "Well!" said the Captain. "It seems, my friend, that you have some desire apparently to pick a quarrel with me. I never quarrel; it wastes words. As for your bull, you deserve to be kicked out of the parish for having such a dangerous beast and allowing it to be at large for a moment. However, if he annoys me, of course I disperse him to the best of my ability; that is a matter between the bull and myself. But your making all this noise, and your manner of address, is disagreeable to every one here; in fact you are a greater nuisance than your bull. You have flourished that bit of ash at me; that is a matter between you and me. I never allow people to flourish sticks at me. I generally knock them down when they do; but, being hungry, I have given you a respite. You pretend, I understand, to some science in the art of single-stick. I will take you at your own weapons, and will give you an opportunity of proving your science. A—in fact, I'll give you a lesson gratis; and I hope and trust that it will be a lesson to you. It shall not be my fault if you don't remember it and profit by it." The Captain reached round to his fishing-rod, and drew out the trolling-top, a springy joint of tough hickory, about the bigness of a common penny cane, or a little smaller, and about a yard in length, ending in about a foot of whalebone, and a stout brass ring. He gave it two or three switches to try its springiness; and then, turning round towards his antagonist, without moving from his chair, or even taking his cigar from his mouth, he said, "Put up your stick, or I'll kick you into the road."—"Get up!" said the Squire, secretly pleased at the apparently slight weapon the Captain had chosen; that couldn't afford much guard, he imagined; though all this excessive coolness rather staggered him. But he thought it was what is vulgarly called bounce and show-off, and comforted himself with that idea. Moreover, the Captain lacked at least three inches of his height—a very considerable advantage in single-stick; and as for bone and muscle, there did not appear to be any comparison between them, though the Squire little knew what was bound up in that apparently slight form. "Get up!"—"I could not think of disturbing myself. Put up your stick."—"Mind, it's your own choice; don't thee blame me," said the Squire. "Never fear; I won't blame you, if you don't blame yourself." Newton trembled for the Captain. The giant seemed to stand towering over him with his powerful ash stick, looking as if he had only to fall upon him to crush him. There was a dead silence in the room. The Captain still smoked his cigar most composedly. It was a picture; the old crone, seeing by their looks that something extraordinary was going on, peered round the corner of the chimney, and her bleared eyes glistened like two coals of fire from the seeming fog that surrounded them. The Squire threw himself into a splendid attitude, and certainly, if attitude would have thrashed his opponent, it was a "hor-e to a handsaw." The Captain merely held his taper glistening wand up, a little inclining over his right shoulder. The giant meditated for the least fraction of a second where the blow should fall, and consequently was the least fraction of a second too late. There was a slight flash through a ray of light that shone between them, and the least possible visible turn of the Captain's wrist, and like lightning the cut fell. The bully uttered a yell of agony as he dashed down his stick, and with both hands to his face, which already streamed with blood, rushed from the room with his cheek cut open to the very bone, from eye to chin. "I'm afraid it was rather hot," said the Captain, as he turned once more to the fire, wiped the joint carefully, and then laid the top with the rest of the rod, as if nothing had happened; "but, confound him, he deserved it."

There are, of course, several scenes in the hunting-field, some cover-shooting, trolling for pike and similar matters, all of which are described with great vivacity and at the same time with a thorough knowledge of these kinds of sport. Some curious sketches of charac-

ters—evidently from the life—are scattered about the story and afford an agreeable diversion whenever one is needed. The character of the clever but erratic Vincent Sartoris, and the discovery of his relationship to Uncle Crabb, reminds us somewhat of a character and an incident in the "Caxtons;" but this may possibly be a coincidence. Perhaps the least entertaining part of the book is the Kars episode, which is used partly to give our friend Mr. Ned Bowers a little of that martial colouring which is so useful to eligible young heroes about to be married, but much more, we suspect, to afford Mr. Francis an opportunity for blowing off a little of his superfluous political steam, and favouring us with his views respecting the craft of Russia, at the same time enunciating some opinions rather more complimentary to Kmetz than to Sir Fenwick Williams of Kars. Let that pass, however. "Newton Dogvane" is an agreeable book. It is written by a gentleman and for gentlemen, and will serve to raise the character of our British sports in the estimation of those who know nothing about them; which is more than we can say for nine-tenths of the trash which is published as veritable pictures of sportsmen and gentlemen.

THE ROMANCE OF THE RANKS.

The Romance of the Ranks, or Anecdotes, Episodes, and Social Incidents of Military Life. By T. W. J. CONNOLLY, Quartermaster of the Royal Engineers. London: Longmans. 2 vols. pp. 718.

THESE VOLUMES are filled with a number of miscellaneous anecdotes and stories which were collected by Quartermaster Connolly whilst he was getting together the materials for his well-known "History of the Royal Sappers and Miners." Albeit we fancy that we can recognise more than one familiar friend among these pleasant tales, Mr. Connolly assures us that they are all perfectly true, or, at least, founded upon facts, and that they principally relate to individuals who have belonged to, or have been connected with the corps of which he is the special historian. It is possible that in other hands a different use might have been made of these *collectanea* from the mess-table and the bivouac-fire. In Mr. Lever's hands the rubbish would have been cleared away, and the gems would have been polished and cut, for the ornamentation of many a bright page of fiction. Mr. Connolly is, however, clearly a matter-of-fact sort of man, and has booked up his good stories with as much precision and regularity as if they were the mere dates and "hard facts" connected with the history of the Sappers and Miners.

As the stories number in all some two hundred, it is obvious that it is neither practicable nor desirable for us to do more than refer to a few of those which seem to call for special remark. And at the outset, let us observe that it might, perhaps, have been better had Mr. Connolly exercised a little of that quality which is commonly called good taste before committing some of his stories to print. There are one or two dirty stories (such as "What one Dog ejects another snaps at," and others that might be named) which ought never to have found their way into a work intended for general perusal. These, however, are but rare exceptions; and for the most part the stories are characterised by an innocent liveliness of fancy which amply excuses a tendency to indulge in exaggeration and a love of the marvellous. Very early in the first volume there is a chapter headed "The Rising at Preston," in which certain very disgraceful events which happened at that time (in 1842) are very graphically recorded; and the fatal timidity of the municipal powers, which led to a sacrifice of life which is not yet forgotten, is very ably handled. The story called "The Magician" gives an account of a sapper upon whom is here bestowed the name of Leeland—a gentleman who believed himself to be endowed with supernatural powers of divination and prophecy. This turns out to be none other than James Lee, now of Baldwin's-gardens, Leather-lane, London, but once of the Royal Sappers and Miners, whose prophetic exertions in the *Morning Advertiser* have lately been exciting equal astonishment and amusement. This extraordinary person wrote a letter to the editor of that journal, predicting the death of the Emperor of Russia at a certain time. The letter (accountably enough) was not inserted, when lo! the event happened as predicted; whereupon the lucky prophet wrote to the editor demanding an acknowledgment that such a prophecy had been made. This was very frankly given, the editor stating at the same time that the fulfilment of the prediction was only to be regarded as a very curious coincidence—a lucky guess. It is evident, however, that Mr. Lee did not so consider it; for, now set up for a prophet, he conducted himself in such an eccentric manner as a sapper, that when the corps was reduced to the peace level he received his *exsequatur*. Previous, however, to his departure he addressed another letter to the *Morning Advertiser*, dated the 26th of March, 1855, in which he predicted the death of another distinguished individual—name left by the discreet editor in blank. This letter, to which attention has been recently recalled in the columns of the *Morning Advertiser*, was as follows:

In all ages of the world there have been some individuals to whom the hour of their own and others' deaths has been made known. Did space permit, I could give numerous examples. I myself am one of these examples; for, as you know, the time of the Emperor of Russia's death was made known unto me, and I made it known to you, three weeks before it happened. And in a most solemn and serious way the time at which another great man will die has also been revealed to me. Besides, these are not solitary cases, and every day I look for other revelations. I wish, therefore, for all people and nations, wherever the *Morning Advertiser* goes, to know, through its columns, this most important secret. Guessing, clairvoyance, and mesmerism have nothing to do with it; but it is a real fact predestinated, unalterably and absolutely made known

unto me in a way which I shall never disclose. I give it disinterestedly for the world's benefit, and do know and believe it shall infallibly come to pass. This revelation wills that — will die on the 15th of May, 1859.

The 15th of May, 1859, is passed, and no potentate or other personage of European importance died on that day. Apparently, therefore, Mr. Lee's prophecy is this time a failure. It may, indeed, be that the next mails from America may bring something in his favour, or coming news from Asia may inform us of the death of the Khan of Tartary, that dignitary whom Squire Western was used to treat with such mysterious indignity. Perhaps even his sable Majesty of Dahomey may have died on that day. Who knows? At any rate, we know nothing as yet to lead us to any other conclusion than this time Mr. Lee has made a guess as unlucky as his former one was pronounced by the editor of the *Morning Advertiser* to be "lucky."

Some of the tales in these volumes offer very convincing proof that Mr. Connolly has much of that love of the marvellous which usually characterises his countrymen. The "swallow" must be a capacious one that can "bolt" a story like this without any difficulty:

FISH AT THE RIGHT TIME.

While surveying the river Euphrates in 1836, with the expedition under Colonel Chesney, Sergeant Black became very ill from diarrhoea. For some weeks he had been ailing, and was at last compelled to keep within his cabin. This was between the city of Anna and the junction of the rivers Euphrates and Tigris. Days of suffering had wasted him to a skeleton; his appetite had gone, and nothing to sustain sinking nature had passed his lips for at least ten days. Dr. Ainsworth, deeply interested in his case, for his services were of the most useful kind to the expedition, paid his accustomed visit to the sergeant, to see how he progressed. He found him worse and declining. By the calm solemnity of his gaze, it was clear he had very little hope of the sufferer, and Black did not shrink from admitting the conviction that he was almost beyond the reach of skill in this world. "Is there anything, sergeant," said the doctor, "that you fancy you can take?" If Black had any doubt of the extremity of his case, it was now removed; for doctors seldom submit a question of this nature to their patients until their own remedies completely fail. "Could I get a taste of fish," returned Black, "I think I should improve." The doctor moved his head ominously. "That is the only thing we cannot get," said he, "for the steamer is going at the rate of twelve or thirteen knots an hour! Can you name anything else?" "Nothing, sir." And Black turned over on his side, resigning himself, like a Christian, to a fate seemingly inevitable, and fell into a doze. From this he was soon aroused by a noise he could not account for. The window of his cabin was violently broken, the basin containing his drink was capsized, and something was fluttering under the table as if struggling for life. Too weak to raise himself to see what was the cause of the disturbance, he knocked at the door of his cabin, and Sergeant Quin, of the Royal Artillery, who was descending the stairs at the time, instantly entered. "What's the matter, Black?" asked Quin, looking with friendly sympathy at his pale-faced comrade. "Can I do anything for you?" "Something has broken the window and upset my basin," feebly replied the startled sergeant. "Look under the table, and tell me what it is." "I see nothing," exclaimed Quin, staring as if he doubted the patient's sanity. Probably he thought that poor Black was raving, and had unconsciously committed the havoc himself, in a convulsion premonitory of approaching dissolution. "Look again," cried Black. Quin did so. To his astonishment he saw a small fish, weighing something less than two pounds, flapping away its strength and its life. Capturing it, he exhibited the panting thing to the sufferer, who felt grateful for this merciful interposition in his behalf. "God is good!" exclaimed the patient with pious fervour, and his eye suddenly illuminated. "He is," said Quin, knowing how ardently Black had longed for a morsel of fish. "Believe," added he, "that this is sent direct to you from God." Black had no doubt of it. The fish was taken to Dr. Ainsworth, who with great gladness desired it to be cooked for the sufferer; but the sable Soyer having given it too high a seasoning with salt, Black, whose mouth was broken by fever and weakness, could not touch the delicacy. The sight, however, was enough. Taking comfort from the belief that he was specially cared for by an Almighty hand, the disorder from that moment turned; his health rapidly improved, and he returned in fair health to England. Black afterwards served at Gibraltar and Nova Scotia, and shared in the toils of the expedition to Syria, especially at the capture of Beyrout and the siege of St. Jean d'Acre.

Very various are these stories: some grave and some gay; some humorous and others didactic; some of daring feats and brave deeds, others of monkey tricks played upon officers and sly love-tricks played upon the lasses. Altogether, a pleasant book for desultory reading, and likely to be very popular in camp and barrack.

THE NOVELLO-CRAFT.

Novello-Craft; a Proposed Method for the accomplishing Great Speed in Journeying over Water. By J. ALFRED NOVELLO. London. pp. 16.

HAD WE RECEIVED THIS before Mr. Delpierre's amusing little tractate upon "Literary Madmen" reached us, we are afraid that we must have taken some notice of Mr. Novello under that head. These pages are intended to disclose the particulars of an invention which is, as Mr. Novello magnanimously declares it to be, "not patented in any country, but open to the free use of all." It would require more space than we can afford, to demonstrate the absurdities of Mr. Novello's invention, which is to have the effect of increasing the speed of travelling by water to sixty or seventy miles an hour; but, from the diagrams and explanations given, we gather that five cylinders of such buoyancy that the superincumbent weight will only immerse one-sixth of their diameter, are to be made to revolve by some internal force. The manner in which this mechanism is expected to act is described by Mr. Novello in the following terms:

Now, with sufficient power, the cylinders may be made to revolve very fast, and the displacement being no longer forced through water, but rolled over it, the speed will cease to be limited by the reluctance of the dense watery fluid to open in front, and the slowness of water to follow into the vacuum behind, but will be equal to the speed with which the fresh displacements are successively brought under the weight of the machine; and as the resistance to onward progress will be reduced to that of climbing the hill presented by the angle at which the cylinders meet the water, there appears every possibility for the *Novello-craft* to attain the speed of a railway-train on land (50 or even 70 miles an hour), as both have to overcome the resistance of passing through the air. It will be

remembered that a watery surface is a dead level, and the *Novello-craft* would not meet with varying gradients, as on a land railway.

We should imagine that a voyage even to Gravesend could scarcely be performed without convincing the experimenter that watery surfaces are not always dead levels; but this gentleman's imagination, soaring into an infinitude of speculation, carries him into asking us to "think what it would be to accomplish the passage from Dover to Calais in twenty or thirty minutes, from Liverpool to New York in two days!" It should be stated in fairness to Mr. Novello that he admits with equal candour and modesty that he is entirely destitute of that "technical knowledge which most engineers have at their fingers' ends," and this he adduces as a reason why he has not deemed it right to take out a patent for his invention. This same want of technical knowledge seems, indeed, to have prevented him from reducing his principle to actual practice; because, although experiments are vaguely mentioned in the pamphlet, we have looked in vain for any record of the actual performances of a vessel constructed upon this principle. One reward, however, he claims for his disinterestedness, and that is "that every vehicle on wheels for crossing the water shall be called a *Novello-craft*. Thus [he adds] a future advertisement may run—The *Novello-craft Queen Victoria* will leave the pier at Southampton for Ryde every hour, from 6 to 18 o'clock," &c. An explanation of what is meant by *eighteen o'clock* must be sought in the fact that Mr. Novello, who has, it appears, other ideas than the *Novello-craft*, has conceived one to the effect that the hours shall be numbered 1 to 24 continuously. In conclusion, Mr. Novello admits, that "the *Novello-craft* has no prototype in animated locomotion;" but at the same time he admits that "the proceedings of frightened water-fowl present strong admonition of the preference which should be accorded to traversing the air on the surface of the water, instead of forcing a way through the heavier fluid." On the principle that two heads are better than one, this hint enables us to supply the link which seemed wanting to the acute perceptions of Mr. Novello in search for some countenance for his invention in an animal prototype. May not the "frightened water-fowl," whose proceedings are so suggestive, be fairly presumed to be our familiar friend the duck in thunder?

A SPIRITUAL DISCOURSE.

Communion with "Ministering Spirits"—a Discourse delivered on Sunday Evening, April 25, 1858. By the Immortal Spirit of Captain Hedley Vicars, and reported verbatim by Mr. W. CARPENTER, Mesmerist and Spiritualist, Greenwich. London: Horsell. pp. 8.

WE HAVE NO INTENTION of casting ridicule or discredit upon one who may perhaps be a very honest and conscientious person when we state that Mr. W. Carpenter, "Mesmerist and Spiritualist," seriously puts this forward as the veritable discourse delivered by the spirit of a gallant soldier deceased, through the medium of his, Mr. Carpenter's, mouth. Mr. Carpenter may believe this, and many other persons may believe it. Whether we believe it or not, we are certainly not in a position either to prove or disprove it, except by inductive reasoning, and we therefore restrict ourselves to a simple mention of the fact and a description of the discourse supposed to have been communicated by an immortal spirit.

In the first place, it is a very noticeable fact that, whatever may have been Captain Vicars's style of oratory in life, his spirit, according to Mr. Carpenter, seems to have contracted one singularly like that which is usually adopted by preachers whose zeal is greatly in advance of their education and acquirements. The commonplace "dear friends" is a favourite opening of many a paragraph, and more than one sentence is constructed after a fashion which leads us to infer that grammar is either unnecessary to spirits or was neglected by the preacher when in the flesh. Captain Vicars is represented as opening his discourse with an account of his proceedings during childhood. Among other reminiscences of this kind, he says: "When I was a child (so my dear mother told me often) I was unruly, obstinate, and impetuous; I did not like to be controlled; I liked to have my own way. . . . Well, dear friends, I went to school, and, as most boys do—instead of keeping myself as I ought—I joined in all manner of sports and tricks. . . . I remember once, while at college, I contracted a debt, and I was ashamed that my dear mother should know it; but I was compelled to let her know it." More of this follows, and it would appear that this debt was the proximate cause of the ultimate conversion to a proper mode of life.

The passage that relates to Captain Vicars's entrance into the army compels us to the belief either that that took place in a manner utterly without precedent, or that his disembodied spirit has forgotten the details of such a mundane matter, or, finally, that the communication has acquired a tinge of ignorance as to military matters in passing through the mind of the medium. "Well, my dear friends," quoth the discourses, "that is the way my early life passed, and I went as a soldier going to fight for my country. The world's glories, the world's temptations, were before my eyes. I remember perfectly well when the news came that I was to be selected to be captain. Oh! it was not with thanks to God for placing me in a position in which I might benefit my fellow-men. No; I thought to myself 'How fine I shall look in my regimentals; how grand it is to have men under me!'" From this we gather, either that Captain Vicars never wore regimentals before attaining his captaincy or that he was selected for that rank without any previous act or knowledge of his own.

The remainder of this discourse is taken up with a great deal of advice more or less good, and certainly more or less elegantly expressed; and, in conclusion, we are assured that it is "a glorious fact that the holy spirits of God are permitted to speak to us through the mouth of one of His humble servants in the flesh." Comment upon this seems unnecessary; at any rate, we must decline to make any.

Some Verse and Prose about National Rifle Clubs. By MARTIN F. TUPPER. (London: Routledge). pp. 55.—The author of "Proverbial Philosophy," by the opportune publication of this little brochure, has set all speculation at rest as to his identity with the author of the much-talked-of "Rifle-

men, form!" in the *Times*. To those who are acquainted with the works of this author it may be unnecessary to state that the prosaic contents of these pages are better than the poetic, and yet to this rather equivocal praise must be added that bad is the best. In one of the "Half-a-dozen Rifle Ballads"—to which the poet composedly adds the magnanimous declaration that "any composer is at liberty to publish music" to them—Mr. Tupper recalls the memory of their fathers' prowess to the descendants of those who fought at Agincourt and Cressy:

Hurrah for the Rifle! In days long ago
Our fathers were fear'd for the bill and the bow,
And Edwards and Harrys in battles of old
Were proud of the archers so burly and bold.

The remainder of the pamphlet consists of "Three Talks about Rifle Clubs," in which certain personages called Funker, Dolt, Muff, and Till, are convinced of the necessity for rifle clubs by a certain Mr. Wydawake. The only piece of common sense in the production is a collection of good plain rules for the formation of a rifle club; but this is speedily neutralised by a feeble effort to identify the present current of events with a prophecy by Daniel.

The Book of Revelation, translated from the Ancient Greek Text. With an Historical Sketch of the Printed Text of the Greek New Testament, &c. A new edition. With a Notice of a Palimpsest MS. hitherto unused. By S. P. TREGELLES, LL.D. (Bagster and Sons.)—Dr. Tregelles has been long known for his patient endeavours to produce a new critical edition of the Greek text of the New Testament, by a collation of the most important MSS. This work, begun by him so far back as 1838, is, we are happy to say, progressing favourably. Part II. being now in the press, and the whole in a forward state. The fullest information respecting it will be found in the editor's prospectus, originally issued in 1848, and now reprinted, with notes and additions, as a supplement to Dr. Tregelles's version of the Revelation. This new version of the Revelation was also issued in 1848, but accompanied with the Greek text, which in the present edition does not appear. "This translation," he says, "is executed from the Greek text according to the ancient authorities; so that there is not a single word which is not guaranteed by manuscript authority of at least twelve hundred years old; and by far the greater part is vouched for by MSS. of fourteen hundred years old." The ancient MSS., however, that contain the Revelation are very few in number: as, namely, the Codex Alexandrinus of the early part of the fifth century, the Codex Basilianus of the seventh century, and the Codex Ephraemi of the early part of the fifth. There is also a MS. of a later date at Rome, designated by critics as No. 38. These four MSS. formed the basis of Dr. Tregelles's Greek text, from which this English version has been made. Consequently, any passages not occurring in such original text will not be found in the English translation. Some persons object to this, and have sought to defend all the passages usually appearing in the *textus receptus* of the Revelation—a course which Bishop Turton, in his defence of Porson, showed to be highly injudicious. As Mill, however, was stigmatised, and Bengel, and, indeed, the whole race almost of New Testament critics, "what wonder," says Dr. Tregelles, "if I should be assailed from some quarters in a similar manner? But I continue my labour, be the consequences what they may; and I trust that God may grant me to bring my work to a completion. I have one simple object before me—the text of God's Word in its truth and integrity; and, however some may object, I humbly trust that my work will be of real service to the Church of God—to those, at least, who value tradition less highly than they do truth." Among those objectors we observe the name of Dr. Bloomfield, whose arguments, however, are disposed of in a manner by no means flattering either to his scholarship or common sense.

The Reformers of England and Germany in the Sixteenth Century: their Intercourse and Correspondence. An Historical Sketch and original Documents. By H. HEPPE, D.D., of Marburg. Translated, with additions, by the Revs. HERMANN SCHMETTAU and B. HARRIS COWPER. (Hatchard and Co.)—This little book is published with the design of promoting a friendly intercourse between the Protestants of England and Germany, on the common ground of mutual interest in the advantages which they both enjoy from the great Reformation. It is well known that in the sixteenth century there was much more of such friendly intercourse than there is at present. Numerous documents extant attest this, and such of them as are here presented to the reader will be found highly interesting. Dr. Heppé confined himself for the most part to researches in Elizabeth's reign; but his translators have done well to go back to the times of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Mary, when the intercourse between the countries was quite as cordial as under Elizabeth. Among the letters thus brought to light by them are two which are supposed not to have been yet published, namely, a letter of Martin Luther to Sir T. Cromwell, dated Palm Sunday, 1536; and another from Justus Jonas to the same statesman, dated the 4th day after Easter in the same year. The present publication, however, neither exhausts the subject nor pretends to do so.

[*Errede's*] *Student's Handbook of General Information.* By JOHN QUESTED. Second edition. (Relfe Brothers.) pp. 117.—This little volume, which appears to be a kind of second series or appendix to "Mangnall's Questions," reminds us, though in a very humble way, of Mr. Timbs's "Things not generally known." We have, as we are told, six hundred questions and answers on subjects of universal interest; though we are by no means certain that occasionally the quality of some of the answers might not be materially improved. For instance we are asked who constructed the telegraph? and we get the answer that "Polybius, about 100 years B.C., contrived an arrangement of signals by means of torches." We have a much more complete description of fire-signals in the famous lines of the "Agamemnon," of Æschylus, a play written some centuries before the birth of Polybius. We are not inclined to accept the derivation of September, as proposed, from *septem* and *imber*; or of November from "*novem ad imber*." There are some other little inaccuracies which might easily be removed; and which would make this little book not only amusing but instructive.

Studies in English Poetry: with short Biographical Sketches, and Notes, Explanatory and Critical. By JOSEPH PAYNE. Fourth edition, revised

and corrected. (Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.) pp. 466.—The fact that this volume has, within a few years, reached the fourth edition is a tolerable proof of its success—success, we think, well-deserved. Not only are "The Flowers of Poesie" remarkably well chosen, but the explanatory notes are admirably clear and to the point; and the biographical notices, and remarks on the spirit and style of the authors, far superior to the rapid nonsense too often found in similar "studies." With regard to the new interpretation of the third stanza of Cowper's Boadicea, suggested by a literary friend of the editor, we must unhesitatingly express our disapproval of it. The common rendering is, we think, far more simple and poetical. The new interpretation, indeed, savours somewhat of the mathematician, who does his poetry by rule and line. We thoroughly agree with the editor in thinking that some unknown author has altered, "with doubtful advantage," the original reading of Addison's lines in page 5. We think for "with doubtful advantage," the words "with undoubted disadvantage," might well be substituted. These explanations and allusions, however, satisfy us, as to the very careful way in which this volume has been edited.

French Conversations for Schools. By J. D. M. PEARCE, A.M. Second Edition. With Additions and Improvements. (Relfe Brothers.) pp. 199.—There is nothing in this little volume to call for particular notice; and we confess we scarcely know what to make of the commencing paragraph to the preface of the first edition, which tells us that "the following pages are intended to take a place hitherto unoccupied by any existing work on the French tongue." What special reason there may be for this claim we leave others to discover. We may add that the book appears to us to be simple and correct, and is very moderate in price.

An Essay on the Counsels, Moral and Civil, of Francis Bacon, Viscount St. Alban. (Walton and Maberley.)—This little brochure, consisting only of twenty-eight pages, is evidently written by a careful student of Bacon's works. The writer, too, has studied to some purpose, as we can readily see even in the very narrow compass of these pages. We are told "what Shakspeare has done for us in his dramas, Bacon has done in his essays. Plato somewhat corresponds to Æschylus; Bacon to the other two great Greek dramatists. Plato's philosophy is too lofty for men; Bacon's was content to take a lower ground, and its fruits are its witness. What, then, Shakspeare is to Æschylus, that I believe Bacon is to Plato." We can accept this parallel, qualified as it is at its commencement by the word "somewhat," which, we think, need not be limited to the correspondence between Plato and Æschylus. And if we agree that Plato took reason for his guide, while Bacon rather followed nature, we shall not wonder if Bacon's philosophy is more fruitful than that of Plato. That Bacon, who wrote so wisely and so well on human nature, should yet have often shown such indecision in his summing-up need not discourage so much as make us humble. This little tract forms an admirable introduction to Bacon's Essays.

The Lord's Prayer familiarly Explained. By ISABELLA BURT. (Printed by J. Teulon, Cheapside.) pp. 51.—In this little tract the Lord's Prayer is briefly and reverentially explained by a lady. It is, indeed, especially intended for youthful readers, and almost disarms criticism by its brevity, and the evidently good intention of the authoress in writing. Grave divines will add nothing to their store of knowledge by the perusal of these few pages, but, we think, they will find no sentiments or expressions that can in any way be objected to, and will not be indisposed to commend its simplicity and the humble spirit in which it is written.

True Womanhood: Memorials of Eliza Hessel. By JOSHUA PRIESTLEY. (Hamilton, Adams, and Co.)—Such biographies as these are only interesting to the immediate friends and relatives of the deceased. Miss Hessel was an amiable, accomplished young woman, and strongly impressed with religious feelings, the sincerity of which she manifested in her intercourse with the world. But that world was so circumscribed that we are astonished any one should think it worth while to write a volume about her dealings with it. The work contains numerous private letters, scraps of poetry, and criticisms upon favourite authors, such as young ladies are frequently in the habit of penning without the slightest view to their being ever made public.

Romantic Tales. By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." New Edition. (Smith, Elder, and Co.) pp. 406.—These "Romantic Tales," thirteen in number, republished by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., formed originally the moiety of three volumes, sent out under the title of "Avillion, and other Tales." They are, in our opinion, not to be compared with the later works of the same author; being, indeed, considerably too romantic for such prosaic spirits as ourselves. Still we think there are volumes inferior to the one before us, even in Messrs. Smith and Co.'s admirable series.

The Hurst Johnian. Vol. I. 1858-9. (Brighton: Treacher. London: J. H. and J. Parker.)—The mysterious title of this little volume led us to search for some preface or programme which would explain the matter. "Johnians" are well known to all Cantabs, but then they are not usually ycleped "Hurst." However we believe (for we are by no means certain) that in these pages, published each month, the pupils of St. John's College, Hurstpierpoint, find vent for their literary lucubrations. The first tale being headed "Orcefa-dal," added to our perplexity, as we were by no means sure whether it related to Wales and its Eisteddfod or to Norway. We have ascertained, however, that it relates to the latter; but Loki Laki and Olaf are not, in our estimation, to be compared with the "Brave Prentices of London in the Olden Time." Let our readers, however, judge for themselves from these pages.

Hygienic Clairvoyance. By JACOB DIXON, L.S.A. (William Horsell.) pp. 74.—The writer of this little brochure proves much more to his own satisfaction than to ours that the subject of hygienic clairvoyance was known to the ancient philosophers. We cannot affirm that the many marvels recounted in these pages are not true; yet we are here inclined to utter the words of the Irish prelate who concluded "Gulliver's Travels" with the affirmation, that "he didn't believe one word" of that veracious traveller. Perhaps "lovers and madmen" are not the only persons "that apprehend more than cool reason ever comprehends."



*Homage d'affectueuse
reconnaissance
Alexandre de Humboldt*

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Voices from Calvary, or the Seven Last Sayings of our Dying Lord. By ROBERT T. JEFFREY, Minister of Caledonian-road Church, Glasgow. (Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.)—The discourses in this volume may be regarded as fair average specimens of Scottish pulpit eloquence. They are earnest and affectionate, not too diffuse, and strictly in accordance with Presbyterian orthodoxy.

We have also received: *Robert Burns, a Centenary Poem.* By the Rev. Edward Morse, A.B. (Hope.)—A second edition, carefully revised, of *Manual of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Mind.* By the Rev. James Carlile, D.D. (Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.)—*The Past and Future of the Present Crisis.* By H. M. Ward. (R. Hardwicke.)—A review of the present political crisis on the Continent, written with a favourable eye to France, and one of an opposite character towards Austria.—*Prostitution considered in Relation to its Cause and Cure.* By James Miller, F.R.S.E. (Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox.)—A sensible pamphlet upon a delicate subject; but we must tell Mr. Miller frankly that to eradicate the evil requires remedies more direct in their effects than any he recommends. No one disputes the benefits of moral training and education; but, in the mean time, something must be done in the way of cure. Is Mr. Miller right in considering the duties of a medical man in connection with the licensing system, so very degrading? Surely nothing is degrading which belongs to the legitimate exercise of the profession, and a physician deserves as much respect by the bedside of Magdalen in the Lock Hospital as by the couch of her Grace in Belgravia. But whether this be so or not, we are quite certain that, in a few particulars, Mr. Miller's zeal for morality has somewhat blinded his perception of the truth. After referring to Verdi's opera, "La Traviata," as a cause and proof of immorality among the educated classes, he says: "The highest lady in the land, with womanly, maternally, queenly modesty, refuses to sanction that by her presence." Now, we can assure Mr. Miller that, no later than Tuesday night last, we had the pleasure of seeing her Most Gracious Majesty, accompanied by her Consort and the ladies of her Court, not only sanctioning by their presence the very admirable performance of Mme. Penco, in the part of *Violetta*, but evidently enjoying it very much into the bargain.

FRANCE.

Notes from Paris on Literature, Art, the Drama, &c.

Paris, May 17.

THE DISCOVERY of three pieces of unpublished verse by Molière cannot fail to be interesting to all lovers of literature, and such a discovery is supposed to have been made. The pieces in question were found, some time since, amongst a mass of old papers, some of which had reference to Molière, by the Marquis Henri de la Garde, amongst the lumber of an old bookseller's at Avignon, where Armande-Grésside Bejart de Modene, who became the wife of Molière, was born. The papers referring to Molière consisted, first, of a number of epitaphs, epigrams, and sonnets, on the death of the great comic poet; and, secondly, two epitaphs, followed by two madrigals, attributed to Molière by the writer of the papers. With these were some other documents having reference to the family of Des Achards, with which family the Marquis de Fortia d'Urban—author of a "Dissertation on the Marriage of the celebrated Molière," a "Dissertation on the Wife of Molière," and a "Supplement to the various editions of the Works of Molière," &c.—was connected. It would occupy too much space to go further into the supposed proofs, but it will be interesting to give a portion of the supposed discovered treasures. The two following madrigals I transcribe complete:

Iris, que prétendez-vous faire?
Étoit-ce par malice, étoit-ce par pitié,
Quand vous avés voulu que ma tendre amitié
De l'amour prit le caractère?
Hé bien, vous avez seen le secret de mon cœur;
Je vous ai fait l'adieu de ma triste langueur;
Mais après tout, Iris, de cette obéissance
Quel enfin doit être le fruit?
M'auriez-vous ordonné de faire tant le bruit
Pour demeurer dans le silence?

L'amour, charmante Iris, ne souffre point de maistre.
C'est un enfant gâté qu'on a peine à connoître;
Il gronde sans savoir pourquoi;
La douceur quelquefois l'irrite;
Il met à bout la plus sage conduite,
Et l'on n'ose pourtant le laisser sur sa foi.
Il veut tout ce qu'on lui refuse,
Il néglige tout ce qu'il a;
Un rien après l'amuse.

Tousjours prest à payer d'une mauvaise excuse,
On hazarde beaucoup de jouer avec lui;
Il ne garde aucune mesure,
Et c'est un grand coup d'avanture
S'il est encor demain ce qu'il est aujourdhuy.
Voilà le bel enfant que vous avez fait naître.
Cependant tel qu'il est il mérite vos soins.
Je veux bien vous ayder à lui conserver l'estre;
Pourveu que vous vouliez sans maia, car, si, peut estre,
A frais communs fournir à ses besoins.

The third piece is much too long for extract, and is, besides, of similar character. This supposed discovery is, of course, of great interest to the countrymen of Molière, and cannot fail to attract attention in every country where his genius is appreciated.

The inedited works of Piron, with letters from Mlle. de Bar, his wife—for in the age in which he lived married gentlewomen were styled "Mademoiselle"—and also from Mlle. Quinault, an actress, are announced for publication by M. Honoré Bonhomme.

The correspondence of Mme. du Defland, hitherto unpublished, is also announced to appear, accompanied by a prefatory notice by Marguerite de St. Aulaire.

M. Théophile Gautier, the younger, has just completed the translation of a work on the campaigns in Italy in 1848-9, by General Schœubals, who was aide-de-camp to Marshal Radetzky. An account of the revolutionary war from the pen of an Austrian general will, doubtless, attract attention at the present moment.

Amongst other publications just issued or in the press, are: "L'homme

de Neige," by George Sand, reprinted from the *Revue des Deux Mondes*; "Abdallant," by M. La Boulay, professor at the College de France, who now and then quits the academic for the imaginative path, reprinted from the *Debats*; and "Les Units du Caire," a work of fancy, founded on travels by the well-known blind traveller, M. Charles Didier—by the firm of Hachette and Co.—"Lectures d'Histoire Ancienne: the East, Greece, and Rome," by M. C. Raffy, published by Auguste Durand. A dictionary of ancient and modern military art, by General Bardin, under the direction of General Oudinot de Reggio, a work in eight volumes, published by Perrotin. "Les Ennemis de Racine au XVII. Siècle," by M. F. Deltour; and "Quinze ans du règne de Louis XIV: 1700 to 1715," by Ernest Moret, published by Didier and Co. A new edition of the works of Chateaubriand, with a notice of the author by M. Sainte-Beuve, and new editions also of the two well-known works of M. F. de Lamennais, on differences in the matter of religion, and on the affairs of Rome, published by Garnier frères. New editions of the works of Gregory of Tours, G. de Lorris, "Le Roman de la Rose," and "Fabliaux," are about to be issued by Firmin Didot and Co. Two works, remarkable for their typographical excellence, published by Henri Charpentier, of Nantes and Paris, one entitled, "Paris dans sa splendeur," in five folio volumes, and containing highly-finished engravings of all the celebrated buildings, monuments, and public places in the French metropolis; the other, "The Life and Mysteries of the Virgin Mary," adapted to be read daily throughout the month of May—the month of the Virgin—by the late Father Arthur Martin, Jesuit. The plates of this work, ninety-six in number, and the borders around all the pages, are exquisitely printed in colours by Lemercier, after designs by Kellerhousen, Ciapponi, Esell, and Ledoux; and the typographical portion, executed by the publisher, does the highest possible credit to the printer and publisher. The work altogether is a most remarkable production.

M. Edmond About's work, "La Question Romaine," printed and published here in fact, although with the impress of Brussels, was seized by the police on Saturday night. M. About was more than severe upon the Papal Government in general, and upon Cardinal Antonelli in particular; and the circulation of the book here enraged the Jesuit party beyond measure, as it was known it would do; so the matter was managed diplomatically; the book was permitted to be sold long enough to allow every one to buy it who pleased, and then the seizure was ostentatiously made known, so that even at the larger booksellers only one copy or so was found. The matter is to be referred to the proper tribunal for consideration, but the effect of the seizure will be to give an immense notoriety to the book, already well circulated. The Pope and his ministry may well cry "Save us from our friends."

The exhibition of paintings and sculpture in the Champs Elysées is closed for a week for the purpose of making certain rearrangements in the galleries, and also for the preparation of the annual exhibition of the Horticultural Society in the central portion of the buildings, already ornamented with grass, shrubs, flowers, a winding rivulet, and a few trees, around and amidst which the sculpture is seen to great advantage. The exhibition of the Photographic Society, in the same building, will continue open without interruption.

Your artistic readers will like to know that an exhibition of fine arts, open to artists of all countries, is announced to take place at Geneva in August. Application for admission of works must be made before the 7th of July, and the works themselves sent in between the 10th and 20th of the same month.

[The reconstruction of the great spire of Notre Dame, over the intersection of the nave and transept, is being rapidly proceeded with. It is to be of great height, and will add much to the general effect of the noble old cathedral, which at present has rather a truncated appearance.

A statue of Pothier, the writer on jurisprudence, was inaugurated the other day with considerable pomp at Orleans. The judges of the Imperial Court and of the Tribunals in their robes, the prefect of the department, and the municipal authorities, escorted by the troops of the garrison and the National Guard, went in procession to the Cathedral, where, after the celebration of mass, a eulogium on Pothier was pronounced by the Rev. Father Gratry. Afterwards a new procession was formed, and after passing by the chapel of the Cathedral in which the remains of the great juriconsult are interred, proceeded to the square at the north of the Cathedral, where the statue is erected. A cantata in honour of Pothier was then sung, and, on a signal from the mayor, the drapery which enveloped the statue fell. The statue is by M. Vital Dubray, and represents Pothier in an attitude of meditation. Suitable speeches were then delivered by the Mayor of Orleans, by the First President of the Imperial Court, and by M. Nogent St. Laurens, one of the deputies of the department in the Legislative Body. A grand banquet offered by the municipality followed, and in the evening there was a subscription ball at the Town-hall; the city also was illuminated, and there were two displays of fireworks.

The *New York Saturday Press* states that a curious use has been made of a passage in Mr. Charles Reade's novel "White Lies." This passage (which was extracted by Mrs. Olympia Aiken, of West Randolph, Vermont, and sent by her to the defenders of Mr. Sickles) is as follows: "I'd have no wasps round my honey. If my wife took a lover, I would not lecture the woman. What's the use? I'd kill the man then and there. I'd kill him indoors or out. I'd kill him as I would kill a snake. If she took another, I'd send him after the first, and so on, till one killed me."

The same publication, referring to the anticipated return of Paul Morphy to his native country, says: "The work mentioned by us some weeks since is now ready for the press. It is to be published by a prominent New York house, and will be entitled 'Paul Morphy's Travels and Triumphs in Europe.' The amusement which may be derived from this gossiping production can be seen from the title of Chapter VI: How the great English Champion, Howard Staunton, very much wanted to play with Paul Morphy. The book will be replete with the small talk of the circles surrounding Paul Morphy in London and Paris, and is prepared by an eye-and-ear-witness of all the incidents connected with the American's reception in the Old World."

According to the same authority, "Mr. Dickens will receive, it is said, 5,000 dollars for his serial story for the *Ledger*. The tale will be finished in six or eight weeks from the time of its commencement."

THE DRAMA, ART, MUSIC, SCIENCE, &c.

THE DRAMA.

COMEDY PROPER, that is Comedy pure and unmixed with tragedy, sentiment, or burlesque, has been for some time banished our stage. The precise and pedantic form of five acts with its hero and heroine, friend and confidante, eccentric young man and fascinating widow, smart serving-man, honest country lout and pretty soubrette, have been voted a bore, and a dead set made at them by the young writers. Comedy, however, is too vital and too vivacious a lady to be destroyed. She may be reduced in fortune, and may have been driven from the palatial residences of the patent theatres. She may have gone to dwell in bye-streets and humble houses, but she can no more be destroyed than the human nature she is derived from. She may be obliged to change her language and assume a foreign phraseology; she may be dwarfed in her dimensions, and be cut down from five to two acts. She may in her misery find strange bedfellows, and be united to ferocious melodrama or to foolish vaudeville; but she exists, and with the indestructible spirits that are the source of her vitality, and which make her ever hopeful and ambitious. At present the circumstances of Comedy seem improving. A native author or two have taken her up, and she has been put into decent clothing and better lodging; and though not restored to her full magnificence yet, there are symptoms that she is thoroughly respectable. The elegant little theatres patronise her, and at the Olympic and the Adelphi she is kindly treated. On Monday she gave a reception at the last theatre, when a two-act comedietta was produced, entitled "The House? or the Home?"

This specimen of comedy is worth examining for several reasons, and especially as it marks a desire to revive the higher form of the drama. It purports to portray real life, to give the manners living as they rise; and as it is said that from high life high characters are drawn, it lays its scene in the region where rank and intellect are associated—the governing class. Nothing less than leaders of the House of Commons and first-class diplomatists appear in it. We of the lower class hear much of these personages, and some of us (the dramatist of the present piece, amongst others, as it is said) have the *entrée* to their drawing-rooms, or perhaps rather to their studies, and thus can give to the outside circle a perfect picture of this important and refined style of existence.

English comedy has been described in various ways; but its most general division is into the species of satirical, conversational, sentimental, circumstantial, characteristic. Endless combinations have been formed by these, but we generally find that at one period, or by one author, a particular kind is adopted and becomes the fashion. The satiric comedy may be marked by Wycherly; the witty, by Congreve; the circumstantial, by Mrs. Centlivre; the sentimental, by Steele; the characteristic, by Shakespeare. The first has been revived in our day, but very feebly, and a comedy rather of actuality than of character has also been reproduced. The Parisian dramatists have led the way here; and they have interpreted literally (and too much so) the precept to hold the mirror up to nature; but their nature consists in *fac-simile* tables and chairs, fire-places and carpets, with manners to match. They certainly thus get the facts of human life; but they do not thereby seize the truths of human character. Their *dramatis personæ* are dressed truly in their bodies; but their minds, as represented in their speech and actions, show as much falseness and absurdity as ever. These derelictions from nature are so smothered by the outward facts, and most persons in an audience are so led away by outward appearance, that when they see a real drawing-room with really well-dressed persons, real fires, real footmen, real furniture, they imagine that the language, and conduct, and characters are equally real. This, however, is a sad mistake, and the careful observer (we will not designate him by the hateful name of critic) will perceive that with all this pretence at a reproduction of actual life, he is still in as dreamy a region as if the stage air was filled with blue fire and haunted by demons or ghosts.

We are led into these reflections by the remarks we have heard on the little comedy of Monday, which we see praised as if it had the wit of Congreve and the character of Shakespeare. To us it seems a very mediocre performance, hardly exhibiting more dramatic power than two or three scenes out of one of Murphy's sober comedies would give. Indeed, nothing could more forcibly give a notion of the decadence of our stage performances than the exaggerated praise heaped upon a production which, as a literary work, could hardly rank with a few scenes out of any of the sententious and moral comedies of fifty years since. The plot is borrowed from a French source. The language depends on a few antithetical sentences, which were heretofore as common as copper money in our plays. The manners are outrageously perverted, as a very little reflection will prove. A General and C.B. is made a go-between in an illicit love-affair. He carries on his purposes like the proceedings of a detective policeman, and confesses that he has obtained the destination of a letter by peeping over the shoulder of the writer. He talks to a lady of the highest condition about "wiggling him," and reproaches her to her face that she is forty years of age. He behaves at once like a fool and a boor. The chief man of the piece is meant for the veritable portrait of an English legislator—a complete gentleman and statesman. How does he act? how does he talk? Though represented as the accomplished diplomatist *par excellence*, he is duped by his secretary and bamboozled by his mother. Though he wishes to evade the arts of the one, and to elude the questions of the other, he has neither the perception nor the tact to do either. He is placed in the absurd, and to the English feeling, the revolting position of leading a man to make love to his wife in her boudoir, and insisting on their being *tête-à-tête* for some time together, retiring with the triumphant and shrewd remark that "now all is safe." His conversation is as unreal as his conduct. This busy and powerful statesman sits down and gives a record of his daily proceedings to a lady he has known for twenty years, and interlards

it with a homily run up to a climax in the old Reynolds and Morton style, on the glories of party politics. He depends on as many secret doors as *Rugantino* in the "Bravo of Venice;" and, finally confesses that he has given his wife an excuse for infidelity, in attending to the affairs of the State. He is certainly dressed accurately in the livery of the Foreign Office, and looks well; but there, we must say, all resemblance stops between him and a real working great English statesman.

This dissimilarity between the outward appearance and the internal character is apparent throughout this drama; and not only is the language when closely watched, such as could not be used by persons of the supposed rank under the presented circumstances, but the conduct is equally false. These defects carry the little piece therefore out of the genus Comedy, into a hybrid order of drama, made up of mental glitter and physical objects, which, though it at the first glance seems so, is not real; and for these reasons we refuse to re-echo the high praise that has been bestowed upon it. The low state to which the literature of the stage must have fallen, is shown when it is thought very clever to describe the young men of the day by saying they have the character of Chesterfield without his manners, and the morals of Rouchefoucauld without his wit. Such antithesis is as plentiful as heath blossoms on a common in our old comic drama.

The story we have not dwelt upon, because it is evidently of French materials; and it is certainly repugnant to English family feeling. A lubberly son confessing to his mother his sinful and sentimental love for another man's wife; her deliberate and cautious proceeding to prevent an infamous crisis; a husband stupidly unconscious; a wife hovering and hesitating, because her husband cannot take her to morning concerts, and continue to act the lover—are repugnant to English notions. The methods of carrying on the plot are equally Parisian. The *imbroglio* is caused by the wife telegraphing to her lover by putting a ring on her husband's finger, in this instance certainly on the side of propriety; but still such a use of a husband by a wife is revolting to an English person. These kind of things are foreign to our manners. We doubtless have our sinners; but they do not sin in that mode. And the calm forgiveness at the end of the play of the young man who has thus disturbed the confidence of a very worthy, though certainly not wise pair, is by no means satisfactory.

We have dwelt on this little drama at some length, because it appears to involve many theatrical principles, and not from any desire to abuse it. In its way it might pass with the myriads of such pieces; but it has for its author Mr. Tom Taylor, the leading writer of the English stage, and it has received an adulation that makes it desirable to test its absolute qualities. It is neither better nor worse than many of its compeers of the day, but then it has been much more extolled; and as it is one of the few representatives of that high class of composition, genuine comedy, it behoves us, as far as in us lies, not to allow all the landmarks of dramatic excellence to be swept away in a flood of indiscriminate praise.

The acting and the putting on the stage were very good; Mr. and Mrs. Wigan performing the principal characters, and Miss Henrietta Simms, Mr. Billington, and Mr. Selby, the tempted wife, the tempting lover, and the marplot old beau. The success was moderate, but complete; and it would seem that even an instalment of regular comedy is gladly accepted.

ART AND ARTISTS.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—MIDDLE ROOM.

NO. III.

MR. A. SOLOMON'S PICTURE, "The Fox and the Grapes," is a clever manipulatory elaboration of a thought not very novel in dramatic effect, and not very refined in perception as regards the quality and quantity of expression necessary to illustrate an obvious incident. This gentleman's ideas of comedy seem to be rather a recollection of the stage than information gained by closely watching the emotional scenes that are enacted by mankind on the wider surface of society. Everything is overstrained. His figures lack that spontaneity of action so requisite to give a lifelike impression. Each and all are of the stage—stagey; resorting to that lowest class of all acting, "playing to the audience." Mr. Solomon "paints" well enough to satisfy any desire with respect to "handling." Let him but give the same care to the moulding of his thought, and the results will not fail to be infinitely more satisfactory.

"Spring" (298), by J. E. Millais, A. Were it not that we have always held and frequently expressed very distinct opinions of this gentleman's capacities as an artist, we might have had some reticence as to the expressions which we are obliged to use in order to convey the impressions which this remarkable work produced upon us. The more we see, year after year, of Mr. Millais's works, the more are we convinced of the rectitude of our estimate; although we must at the same time confess we were not prepared for such a *facilis decessus* as his pictures this year prove. We have ever held, and still hold, this gentleman's imagination to be exceedingly limited, and his fancy curt, grotesque, and abrupt. On the other hand, his physical perceptions are keen, powerful, and retentive. Let him but see a thing, and he can render it with unerring certainty of form and absolute distinctiveness of colour. In these qualities lies his whole power—mighty elements truly, but without the instinctive guidance of refined taste or the reflective guardianship of selective judgment; likely to result, nay, sure to end, in such shocking and electrifying pictures as those exhibited by him this year. We perceive here a natural consequence. Great conscious talent, exalted in its premature development by unmeasured and unqualified applause, will sink, without continued and earnest labour, either into careless ruin or utter insolence when called upon to fulfil the requirements of advancing years or satisfy the desires of a not over-discriminating but too confiding or admiring public. How long that public will endure such escapades as the one before us, remains yet to be proved; but this we may fearlessly assert—let the committee exert the same "savage" humour next year which they have this, and let Mr. Millais display the same absence of taste; and he will learn to his dismay the difference that lies between being notorious and being famous; and the former gentlemen, inclusive of the "hangers," the dis-

inction between being held as selfish, vindictive, and prejudiced men, in contradistinction to being just, generous, and discriminating judges. "Spring," as applied to this picture, is meant to include a display of the early petals of apple-trees and the budding years of womanhood. A fair thought and a beautiful—but how carried out? Why, by some seven or eight gross libels upon the "human form divine," in personal attributes running the gamut of uncomeliness from the major of deformity down to the minor of ugliness. Grim, gaunt, and ungainly; essentially unloveable beings; all fit minions for a reformatory, if the Creator's handwriting be true. Curds-and-why are they eating? It should be vinegar and cayenne pepper! Hard, bold, sullen, and abandoned; no suavity of gentle composition; no tremulousness of refined emotion. A pic-nic, forsooth! without a single touch of maidenly meekness, hilarity, loving temper, or wooing grace? This is not as a pic-nic should be—such a one as we have known:

With cloudless joy the dimpled maidens laugh'd,
Or sadly sigh'd with pensive sympathy,
Now singing as of music they had quaff'd,
And twined bright thoughts with wildest minstrelsy.

For truth, Mr. Millais, our impression against yours, and the stake to be, the brightest smile that can illuminate the face of the fairest woman we or you know. As for apple-tree flowers, if you are desirous of knowing how they really ought to be painted, just step into the next room and look at the delicately ruffled buds and blooming petals in Mr. Horsley's or Mr. Hughes's pictures; the last, in this respect, as near to perfection as might be. No, sir! yours is not "Spring," but a collection of young vampires, harpy-clawed; not daring (for a reason we know) to show a single foot, feasting "in the ghoul-haunted woodland of Wier." Your other work (482) we will not notice, for it is as much beneath criticism as it is unworthy you.

"The New Ballad, a Scene in Brittany," by D. W. Deane (306), is one of those subtle bits of open daylight for which this artist is so deservedly celebrated.

"Sunday in the Backwoods," by T. Faed, is the largest canvas we have yet seen covered by this painter. Full of praiseworthy delineation, still life, and admirable rendering of individual character, but strangely neglectful of the key of light relative to day. None of its radiation, and still less of its absorption, but every part painted in the tone and chiaro-oscuro of an indoor effect; in fact, as if Mr. Faed saw open daylight through the bedimmed spectacles of one of the Dutch interior painters.—"An Avenue of Trees in Devonshire," by T. R. Lee, R.A. (321), is far and away that gentleman's best production this year.—"Felice Ballarin reciting Tasso to the People of Chioggia," by F. Goodall, A. The same observations that apply to Mr. Faed have perfect relation here, with the difference that Mr. Goodall has attempted to paint sunlight in a sort of *loggia*, therefore earnest attention was requisite to watch the absorption of colour in the reflections, and keener insight required to mark the shadows in and out of its radiating influence. For, unless this be watched with the greatest care, and enunciated by the most distinct utterance, sunlight will not even be suggested; attained it never can be, even with all means and appliances to boot.

"On Shore," by T. Creswick, R.A. (335). This is a very fortunate piece of variety; the sky is admirable, but the water, although good in tone, is deficient in form, and reminds us of the manner of David Cox, but diluted from lacking his impulsive and impressional force. Nevertheless we prefer it to any other work exhibited this year by Mr. Creswick.

"Dalliah asking Forgiveness of Sampson" (348)—Now, Mr. Pickersgill, have you not done this over and over again—the naked back and all? Do try and insinuate a little heart into your next; for this constant repetition of mere hand and head work wearies even to satiety.

"Little Kate" (349)—a dear, good, little soul, carrying carefully two "tommys" and a ha'porth of milk for the evening's tea. This picture, by an artist (Mr. J. B. Bedford) hitherto unknown to us, ought, from the capital way in which every part is painted, and in which the essentials are grasped and expression caught, to have been hung on or near the "line," instead of on the ground.—"Mrs. Laurence R. Bailey," by J. Robertson (363), though very severe in treatment, is one of the best painted lady-portraits in the exhibition. There is one by Mr. Watts superior not only to this, but to every other in the exhibition; but, after that, we are inclined to give this work the next position.

"Luff, Boy" (369). We much regret the discovery that Mr. Hook betrays a want of his former energy in seeking after the infinite variety of tones and colours in the human face, and great carelessness in the drawing of parts of the frame. This gentleman must beware of the snare of that idleness which lies under the protection of the word "breadth," which is always in its proper acceptance compatible with great variety and proper finish. This picture has all the charms of Mr. Hook's peculiar colour, but the figures have by no means had the same attention paid to them as the fish in the bottom of the boat, which are truly admirable, and are as slimy, wet, fantastic, and colourful as well brought-up fish ought to be.

As the "hanging" committee had the right of rejection, we should be glad to know upon what possible consideration the pictures from 371 to 375 were hung?

"The Monk Felix," from Longfellow's "Golden Legend" (380), is a clever transcript, deserving of all attention and great praise.

No. 381 is a very funny picture—perhaps the only real bit of truly intentional burlesque in the Academy. It is a portrait of the celebrated Mr. William Barlow in the character of *Hamlet*; "accoutred" as he was or might be supposed to have been. This picture is properly hung on the line, for W. H. Pickersgill, Esquire, Royal Academician, has painted it with the full force of his clear, pellucid, firm, foot-toned brush, and (as if to make the satire still more pungent) the name of the honoured William (not Shakspeare, gentle reader,) is not appended to the picture; but, instead, a quotation from the play, which includes this line—"Dost thou think Alexander looked o' this fashion i' the earth?" Who, what, which, good Master Pickersgill; you, Billy Barlow, *Hamlet*, or the skull? We "pause for a reply." Yet "go thy ways, and look you offend no more."

388 is a capital picture, Hard a-lee! Hard 'tis. Time, too! Filled with the motion, bustle, tumult, and activity that make the lives of those whose occupation is upon the waters so full of incident: the water really looking wet—a rare thing in Dutch river-scenes nowadays, for it usually seems like palpitating mud. It is an especially commendable quality, too, in this gentleman's work that he pays strict attention to the anatomy, form, and action of the craft which he so cleverly depicts; but we can by no means understand how the hardy sailor on the weather side could have flung the many-fluked anchor or grapple so far. Mr. E. W. Cook may have wanted the pleasant line of the rope as an element in his composition, but he should have hung more probability at the end of it.

"Barley Harvest," by H. C. Whaithe (390). We have shown heretofore than none can derive greater pleasure than ourselves from this gentleman's work, and we have not hesitated to state it as broadly as we could; but we must warn him and protest against his constant use of the sharpened point of a too fine brush. We believe from the constant delicacy of his perception that

Mr. Whaithe is rather afraid of over-quantity of medium. Now this can be well met by the use of larger brushes, and of coarser material, such as hog-hair—carefully eschewing "stippling." In every other respect he is more right in proportion to his age than any other landscape-painter we know.

"Home again—1858," by Henry O'Neil (400). Every one who remembers the "Eastward Ho!"—and who does not?—exhibited by this same artist, and hung in the same place last year, will recognise that the present work is painted as a companion to that of 1858. We think, however, that in no respect is it equal in any one point to the former picture. Its intensity is not so great, nor is the handling so large; and the consequence is that, taking the two pictures relatively, the interest flags because the emotions are not so excited, and admiration is lessened because the portrayal is not so capitally executed. From a praiseworthy desire to achieve a still greater amount of success and consequent applause, this gentleman has fancied that to obtain that end he must put in more figures, and increase the quantity of subjective matter. Now, this is sure to defeat the end desired. The picture, notwithstanding, is, *per se*, a very fine one, and only suffers by comparison.

"Augustus L. Egg, Esq., A.R.A.," by J. Phillip, A. Bravo! powerful, congenial, and truthful. The right man in the right place, eitherways, to sit or paint.

"Interior of the Church of St. Mark" (420). Not a bit of it. This must be a misprint. It is simply the interior of the church of David Roberts, Esq., R.A., London.

"A Kind Star" (426). This picture will be a full poem or an idle phantasy to the separate mental condition of those who look at it. It is exactly one of those pictures you cannot gauge by rule, because it is above the common standard of measurement. We would rather possess it than any other by Sir Edwin in the exhibition.

"Contentment" (437), by William Dyce, R.A. What a remarkable capacity has this artist in imitative power of seizing the salient points of any painter's style or manner, and yet never engendering one of his own. Whether he is Germanic, French, Venetian, or English, is entirely dependent upon the work which last created an impression upon him. We took this present picture to be an over-finished and under-studied work by Creswick; but on reference to the catalogue it is by Mr. Dyce. Whose style next year, we wonder!

Now, for a single head, we have reached the GEM of the year, "Isabella," by George Frederic Watts; hung in a manner for which there can be no excuse. We cannot quite see it, which forces a pregnant regret; but what we can see induces us to gaze upon it again and again, and yet again. Reader, go thou and do likewise. Not far from it lies—truly lies, for it is on the ground—another remarkable work, merely numbered 441 in the catalogue, but on the flat of the frame is superscribed "God's Gothic." It is a seashore, by a Miss A. Blunden, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. We give full publication to this lady's name and residence, because this picture exhibits such qualities as to make us anxious for future works, and also to draw the special notice of the reader to her capacities. The rendering of this scene is femininely gentle in treatment, yet powerfully truthful as regards the fact; the restless roll of the robe of the ocean is exquisitely marked by the almost hidden lace-work of white foam that marks the edge of the advancing wave covering the bosom of the palpitating sea. Truly a remarkable work. Over it hangs a very small picture, by F. Stone, A., called "The First Voyage." An exquisite little work, and, to our thinking, the best picture this artist has ever painted. The incident is so dramatically told, and the sympathy asked so readily granted, that the impression it leaves is not disturbed by whatever you may have seen before, nor obliterated by whatever you may observe after. We have no desire to measure our commendation of this *bijou*.

Next comes a very able indicative work. We say indicative, because the gentleman's name is (the Christian one) new to us, being M. Stone. The picture represents a felon with a child sleeping in an outhouse discovered by a man attended by some "Police." As "in the worst nature there glows a shovellul at least of infernal embers, so also exists in that heart a little corner of Paradise." So it is here: for the felon father, on whose lap the child sleeps, in the desire to retard the effects of the wintry night and snow-covered ground, has taken off his own scanty clothing to enwrap and shield his child. "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," and it has evidently thawed in the icy air of night the cold heart of the accustomed policeman. The rare way in which the still-life portions are painted is especially noticeable. We shall expect great things hereafter from this artist.

"Castilian Almsgiving" (457), by J. B. Burgess, is so much in advance of anything we have before seen by this gentleman that we cannot but add a word of praise for the well-directed labour, and congratulations for the general results.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

A GENERAL MEETING of the subscribers to the monument about to be erected in Newcastle-on-Tyne, to the memory of the late George Stephenson, Esq., was held on Wednesday week, in the Council Chamber of the New Town Hall, the Right Hon. Sir George Grey in the chair. The secretary read the following report: "That in the opinion of this committee the best and most appropriate site for the monument is on the triangular space at the junction of Westgate-street with Neville-street, in case the assent of the corporation of Newcastle can be obtained. That, while the general sentiments of your committee appear to be in favour of intrusting the task of constructing the monument to Mr. Lough, who has already prepared a full-length statue of Mr. Stephenson, your committee do not presume to pronounce a positive opinion in favour of that sculptor without being furnished with more ample materials to guide them in their decision; and, with this view, they recommend that Mr. Lough should be invited to produce a model of the statue and pedestal, or other accessories, upon such a scale as to enable them to speak with more confidence upon so important a question as the selection of the artist. The model so furnished to be submitted to the opinion of a committee, constituted of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., the Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth, the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B., M.P., Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., Sir Wm. George Armstrong, C.B., Robert Stephenson, Esq., M.P., William Hutt, Esq., M.P., John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., John Clayton, Esq., Nicholas Wood, Esq., Charles Mauby, Esq., F.R.S., the Rev. J. C. Bruce, LL.D.; who, in the event of their pronouncing favourably of its merits, shall be empowered to intrust Mr. Lough with the commission of designing and executing the Stephenson monument. Mr. Kell supplemented the report by informing the meeting that the subscription list now amounted to 4,961*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, 5,000*l.* being the sum desired to be raised, and that of the sum of 4,961*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, for which parties had put down their names, 4,206*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* had been actually received. He also stated that, in pursuance of what he considered to be his duty, a copy of the resolution which he had just read in connection with the report, was transmitted to each gentleman of the committee named, with the request that they would furnish a reply as to their willingness to act. He had got replies from the whole in the affirmative. A series of resolutions based on the report were put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to the committee, treasurer, and secretaries, for the zeal and ability which they had displayed, and a resolution of thanks to the noble chairman for presiding, having been passed, the proceedings terminated. [The selection of one sculptor to submit models, and then be intrusted with the execution of his own design, is a step in the right direction.]

A correspondent of the *Building News* contradicts a statement to the effect that Mr. Millais had borrowed the subject of his "Vale of Rest": "In a notice of the Royal Academy, a contemporary, speaking of Mr. Millais's 'Nuns in the Churchyard,' says—'But it seems a paraphrase from one of some modern French painter, who showed us, through a convent gate, an old Zouave digging his own grave.' The 'some modern French painter' is Horace Vernet, and the picture referred to is the 'Zouave Trappist.' The Zouave Trappist was not shown digging, but kneeling beside a fresh-filled grave; nor was he seen through a convent gate, but in a cemetery in Algeria. Horace Vernet's reputation is not likely to suffer by being spoken of as 'some modern French painter,' any more than the fame of the author of 'Paradise Lost' was dimmed by being designated as 'one John Milton.'"

Saunders's *Dublin News Letter* announces that the annual exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy opened on Monday. In extent the exhibition is quite equal to any held by the Academy in former years, and there are included in the collection many pictures of a high order of merit, amongst which are some very fine paintings by Belgian artists. Of these the most conspicuous is "La Nuit de Noël, ou la Naissance du Christ," by Van Scheudel. "The Presentation of Crimean Medals," by George Housman Thompson, is a picture which will have many admirers. The subject is a difficult one, and it has certainly been executed in a masterly style. The sales of pictures yesterday amounted to nearly 300*l.*, and his Excellency made the following purchases: "Luggers in a Breeze," Mr. Kendrick, R.H.A.; "Entrance to Dublin Harbour," Mr. William Howis; "Wind on Shore, Ostend," Edwin Hayes, A.R.H.A.

It is said that a staff of photographers is about to be organised to join the army of Italy.

For the exhibition of works of industry in 1862, to be held at Madrid, the following is the royal decree: "Taking into consideration the reasons adduced by my council of ministers, I have decreed as follows: Art. 1. On the 1st of April, 1862, will be opened, in Madrid, a public exhibition of agricultural and manufactured products, workmanship, and objects of art, as well for the peninsula and for the adjacent islands as for the foreign provinces and our African possessions. Art. 2. To compete at this exhibition are invited all the American republics of Spanish origin; also the kingdom of Portugal. Art. 3. A council, presided over by the king, my well-beloved spouse, and composed of competent persons, will, in as short a period as possible, take the most efficacious means of carrying out this design in all its branches.—Given," &c. &c.

We have now, in accordance with our promise made last week, to render an account of the prices produced by the pictures belonging to Mr. Rodgett, and sold by Messrs. Christie and Manson, on Saturday last; and the results prove that we had not underrated their value, nor over-estimated their worth. We were much impressed by two circumstances: one, the curious inconsequence of comparative value. For example, one of the very finest drawings ever made by J. M. W. Turner brought 155 guineas, whilst a drawing by F. Taylor fetched 214 guineas! The other, was the fact that the largest purchasers, even with the extraordinary prices given, consisted chiefly of "dealers" in art. We append the names of those gentlemen where we could learn they ought to be attached. "The Saint-maker," 32 gs. (Agnew). "L'Allegro," W. E. Frost, A.R.A., 39 gs. (Agnew). "A Coast Scene," W. Collins, R.A.; said to have been exhibited at Manchester. 25*l.* We doubted this picture; and the price offered and given by

Those who were older than we—
Of many far wiser than we

—proves that we were not out in that judgment—only producing 38 gs. (White). "A View of Tangiers," D. Roberts, 49 gs. (Agnew). "A Street in Rouen," S. Prout, 23 gs. (Agnew). A pen-and-ink sketch by Sir David Wilkie, and called "Greenwich Pensioners," which was a mistake, it being a study for the Chelsea Pensioners, 20 gs. "Fort Rouge," David Cox, 13 gs. "Peasant Children with a Grey Pony," Topham, 28 gs. "Grouse Shooting," a fine work by P. de Wint, 41 gs. (Agnew). "Interior of Crew Hall," J. Nash, 31 gs. (Agnew). "Aurora borne by Zephyrs," Frost, 19½ gs. A river scene with boats, D. Cox, 17 gs. (White). Scene from "Macbeth," with portrait of Macready, Cattermole, 28 gs. "Wreck Ashore," Pyne, 28 gs. "Interior of a Welsh Cabin," Topham, 40 gs. "Children at a Cottage Door," Goodall, A.R.A., 61 gs. (Gambart). "Girl Writing by Candle Light," W. Hunt, 40 gs. (Gambart). "Return of her Majesty's Buckhounds," F. Taylor, 214 gs. (Agnew). "Whitehall—a gem—D. Cox, 26 gs. "A Boy with a Lighted Candle," 43 gs. (Gambart). "The Dog's Watergate," Cattermole, 47 gs. (Grundy). "Portsmouth," J. M. W. Turner, 102 gs. (White). "A Peasant Woman and Child," Poole, 35 gs. (Agnew). "Bolton Bridge," D. Cox, 27 gs. "Hampton Court," by J. M. W. Turner, 160 gs. (Dixon). "On the Wye," D. Cox, 41 gs. (Agnew). "The Broom Gatherers," W. Hunt, 42 gs. (Gambart). "Too late for Church," F. Taylor, 123 gs. (Agnew). "Sir Henry Lee and his Daughter," 51 gs. (Agnew). "Dartmouth," J. M. W. Turner, 155 gs. (Agnew). "The Hayfield," 1838, D. Cox, 95 gs. (Agnew). "Plums and Greengages," W. Hunt, 70 gs. (Gambart). "Maid Marian," MacLise, 26 gs. (Jones). "Myrrha," H. O'Neil, 91 gs. A very doubtful Nasmyth, 1822, 22 gs. An exquisite little Poole, 1853, 39 gs. "An Interior at Plas Manor," W. Müller, 31 gs. (Wallis). "Silenus bound with flowers," Noel Paton, 48 gs. (Agnew). "A Girl," by C. Baxter, 35 gs. (Flatou). "A Sea Shore," by J. Linnell and W. Collins, R.A., 81 gs. (Flatou). "Don Quixote and Sancho," John Gilbert, 51 gs. (Wallis). "The Bark Peelers," J. Linnell, 165 gs. (Wallis). "Sophia and Olivia," C. Baxter, 175 gs. (Wallis). "Rumination," Frost, A.R.A., 39 gs. (Wallis). "The Penitent," C. Baxter, 32 gs. "A Landscape," P. Nasmyth, 81 gs. (Flatou). "The Peta," a small sketch in oil by Frith, 90 gs. (Rought). "The Foresters' Meal," Collins, R.A., 89 gs. (Flatou). "The Hayfield," Poole, A.R.A., 96 gs. "Summer Evening," J. Linnell, 221 gs. "A Breezy Day," D. Cox, 64*l.* (Gambart). "The Flower Girl," a kitcat, by Etty; this head (being a portrait) of Miss Lewis, daughter of the celebrated engraver, and sister of the no less deservedly celebrated painter, J. F. Lewis we have always esteemed as one of the very finest examples of Etty, and yet it only produced 64*l.* 1*s.*; if many had known that the hand of Sir Edwin had been engaged on it, no doubt it would have fetched a far higher sum, as indeed it ought—but "every one to his liking." "The Fairy-struck Child," F. Goodall, A.R.A., 172*l.* 4*s.* "The Poacher's Bothy," Sir Edwin Landseer, 735*l.* (Wallis). A landscape, W. Müller, 1841, 336*l.* (Rought). "Rustic Hospitality," Collins, R.A., 1844, 339*l.* 5*s.* "The Castle and Town of Ischia," Stanfield, R.A., 367*l.* 10*s.* "A Welsh River Scene," D. Cox, 46*l.* 4*s.* (Gambart). "La Pensero-a," J. Sant, 81*l.* 18*s.* (Grundy). "The Rivals," C. R. Leslie, R.A., 477*l.* 15*s.* (Wallis). "All Fours," Webster, 157*l.* 10*s.* (Flatou). "Baby's Turn," Cope, R.A., 1854, 162*l.* 15*s.* (Grundy). "Othello's First Misgivings," J. R. Herbert, R.A., 80*l.* 17*s.* "The Ferry Boat," George Chambers, 194*l.* 15*s.* "The Swing," F. Goodall, A.R.A., 756*l.* (Agnew).—The total sum realised was 7,837*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

ALL DOUBTS eventually resolve themselves into certainties. Conjecture mingled with anxiety has been floating in the musical atmosphere with reference to the production of certain pieces at the Royal Italian Opera, ever since it has been known that the lamented Bosio could return to the scene of her triumphs no more. To fill up immediately a gap caused by the unlooked-for retirement of any person essentially great, and eminently useful, is always a task of difficulty—one not unfrequently out of the pale of human possibility. There is, nevertheless, a mode by which the end sought may to a considerable extent be attained, and that is, by securing the services of two to do the work of one. This plan has been adopted with every probability of its working out the de-ired object. Mme. Lotti della Santa has given an earnest of what a riper experience will achieve, while Mme. Penco, who was introduced for the first time on Tuesday, sets all doubts about qualification at rest. This lady has gained a solid reputation on the Continent, and will soon do so here. Her attainments are of a lofty class, and she is as thoroughly at home on the stage as if "to the manner born." The antecedents of Mme. Penco point to greatness in high lyric tragedy; she, however, chose to make her first appearance as *Violetta* in Verdi's "La Traviata," and gave such an impersonation of the character as could not fail to impress by its force, truthfulness, and intensity. Her vocalisation charms by its peculiar freshness; her embellishments are not extravagant, but remarkable for originality, and in one instance a special effect was produced by a cadenza terminating with a crescendo shake, so thoroughly artistic and effective, that it took the house by surprise. Mme. Penco, already in favour, is not only a great addition to the lyric corps at this establishment, but is evidently destined to play leading characters in the grand operas forthcoming. Sig. Gardoni represented *Alfredo Germont*, and Sig. de Bassini the father. It is scarcely necessary to say that "Traviata" was put on the stage with a due regard to completeness in all its details, and that the opera was received throughout with much satisfaction by a crowded house.

At Drury Lane variety is the order of the day. On Friday another *débutante*, Mlle. Weiser, appeared as *Gilda*, in "Rigoletto," without achieving a success. From what we could gather this was the first time that the lady had undertaken the part. So hazardous an experiment was quite enough to unnervé a system stronger than that of Mlle. Weiser, and to endanger substantially a reputation, perhaps deservedly won in characters not yet submitted to our scrutiny. On Saturday Titiens, in "Lucrezia Borgia," was triumphant. She looked the haughty Duchess of Ferrara to the life, sang admirably, and acted with wonderful truth and intensity. Such was the care manifested throughout that not a single point was lost. The cavatina, "Come è bello," with its florid cabaletta, was delivered with surprising brilliancy; the interview with her unconscious son in the subsequent duet was equally remarkable for its tenderness, while the assumption of rage, wounded pride, and eager desire for vengeance when taunted by the young nobles with her infamies, presented a chain of finished contrasts which artists only of a very high order of excellence can portray with effect. Other portions of Donizetti's chief work were famously sustained, and the house—a very crowded one—manifested their approbation by frequent outbursts as the bright points of the opera were vividly represented. At the close of each act the principals bowed their respectful acknowledgments between the footlights and the drop-scene.

There was nothing remarkable in the programme of Saturday issued by the Crystal Palace Company beyond the first pianoforte performance there of Herr Leopold de Meyer. The music selected was chiefly of the light and sparkling kind. It pleased, and doubtless many an attentive listener profited by the style of so eminent a player and composer.

The London Glee and Madrigal Union gave another afternoon concert on Monday at the Hanover-square Rooms. Combined with the attractions which have peculiarly characterised previous entertainments, was an extremely quaint wailing song, entitled "I have a house and lands in Kent." The production of such a work as this throws a strong light on the music of England long before the time of "Good Queen Bess." It is the offspring of a very early composer, gifted with considerable fancy. The soloists on this occasion were the Misses Wells, Eyles, and Spiller; Messrs. Young, Baxter, Cummings, and Lawler. For the efficient performance of several choice madrigals, a choir under the direction of Mr. Land was engaged. The attendance on Monday last is perhaps the best commentary that can be adduced respecting the growth and popularity of the glee society to which this paragraph refers.

The English Glee and Madrigal Union met at Willis's Rooms on Monday, for the second time this season. Every admirer of the truly English compositions set forth in the programme, who happened to be present, must have been forcibly impressed with the finished style in which each piece was sung. There was, however, a great want of novelty in the selection, as well as of contrast. Where the field from which an ever-redolent posy can be easily culled, is so accessible, we are at a loss to discover a good reason why the same flowers should be again and again presented. The chief executants were Miss Banks, Mrs. Lockey, Messrs. Foster, Lockey, Smith, Thomas, and Winn.

For such a time-honoured institution as the Philharmonic Society, the programme issued on Monday was not a very striking one. The chief pieces selected have of late been so frequently played by various musical societies that the anxiety to hear them has lost its intensity. Moreover, when we consider how rich are the stores of music under the especial lock and key of the Philharmonic Society, the astonishment increases that Mendelssohn in A major, Beethoven in C minor—wondrous as they unquestionably are—should, with a brace of hard-worn overtures, have formed the staple source of the instrumental entertainment. The only feature that has claim to novelty consisted in a duo concertante, violin, by two talented young men, Alfred and Henry Holmes. It may be in the remembrance of some that these duo players were first brought into notice at Exeter Hall, when the Wednesday evening concerts were under the directorship of Mr. Box. As youths they were remarkably clever, but in these days of highly advanced violin-playing, the surprise of their manhood is scarcely in proportion to that of their earlier days. A duet of Sopra's with orchestral accompaniments selected for Monday, was played with a degree of vigour, taste, and precision, that won for them general applause—a compliment of value, inasmuch as it proceeded from a class of listeners much more competent to discover real merit than is found among concert audiences generally. The principal vocalist was Miss Augusta Thomas, a young lady at present but little known, but whose abilities must ere long raise her to an exalted position among the sopranos of the present day.

We question whether a programme made up exclusively of Schubert and Spohr was ever submitted to a metropolitan public before the 16th inst. The directors of the Monday Popular Concerts tried the experiment, and St. James's Hall was admirably attended by the patrons of classical music. Spohr—though living—is rapidly advancing in general favour, and the wonder is that Franz Schubert should be known little more than in "The Erl-King" or "The Wanderer." The music of Schubert has long been recognised in musical circles on the Continent as possessing in a pre-eminent degree that great requisite—originality. All his songs especially are marked by a deep poetic feeling, vivid force of ima-

gination, truthfulness of expression, easy elegance of modulation, and an inexhaustible novelty of accompaniment. Schubert is still less known in this country as a composer for stringed instruments; and on Monday a quartet in A minor for two violins, viola, and violoncello, was submitted for the first time. The executants were Herr Joachim, Herr Ries, M. Schreurs, and Sig. Piatti. Schubert's biographer assigns as a reason why his instrumental compositions have been neglected, that he had the disadvantage to flourish during the period of Beethoven's most marvellous productive activity. In fact, Schubert was like a tender plant growing under the shadow of a giant oak, so that the world could not see him for Beethoven. The quartet introduced on Monday partook of the fault which characterises nearly all Schubert's instrumental compositions, viz., extreme length. In a grand sonata for pianoforte (Op. 53), the audience manifested signs of weariness, and but for the masterly performance of Mr. Charles Halle it would not have secured the attention that it did. Miss Theresa Jefferys, Miss Palmer, M. Fedor, and Mr. Santley, as the vocalists of the evening, were received with favour. The selections from Spohr were two songs, a duet, a sonata for violin and harp—the latter instrument by Mlle. Mossner—and the grand double quartet, in E minor (No. 3), a masterpiece of ingenuity, and played without fault or flaw.

Regardless of the exciting entertainments with which the metropolis abounds at this season of the year, the Vocal Association, in pursuing the even tenor of its way, still finds a large class of admirers. Lindsay Sloper's "Birth-day Cantata" had another hearing on Tuesday at St. James's Hall, and was received with more fervour than on its first representation. We are not as yet brought over to the opinion that it is a work of much merit. A young lady, Miss Telbin, essayed a pianoforte solo, taking her subjects from Handel's well-known "Suites de Pièces" and a capriccio of Mendelssohn's in F minor. In the delineation of these she evinced a nimble finger and a commendable taste. Among the vocalisms, a part-song entitled "The Warbler of the Forest," won a large share of applause. In the absence of Mr. Benedict, a very efficient conductor was found in Mr. Otto Goldschmidt.

The last subscription concert of the season under the superintendence of Mr. Hullah was given at St. Martin's Hall on Wednesday. An excellent programme was submitted—one of the very best that has fallen under our notice for some time past. Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony" stood at the head of the entertainment, and Mendelssohn's cantata, "The First Walpurgis Night," brought it to a conclusion. From the frequent introduction of the "Pastoral," concert-goers have become very familiar with the rich and gorgeous musical colouring with which Beethoven has caused it to glow. Such a band as that gathered around the desk of Mr. Hullah could not do otherwise than impart the fullest justice to the mighty maestro's No. 6. Mendelssohn was not seen to such advantage. The choruses of his singular and picturesque work are hardly within the reach of ordinary amateurs. Nevertheless, the most commendable efforts were made to give them due effect. The wild and scaring passages of the scene on the mountain, when the Druids resort to hobgoblin fictions to dismay and repel the Christian invaders, demand vocalisms of the clearest and most decisive kind. There was a manifest anxiety on the part of the executants to clothe this movement with its true practical aspects. In other portions the result of drilling was manifest, especially where delicate distinctions of light and shade were required. The contralto solo, in which the aged woman counsels the Druids to beware of the snares laid for them by their enemies, was sung by Miss Palmer, who gave a very able and intelligent rendering. Mr. Wilbye Cooper contended with the tenor solos—which, by the by, are not easy—and came out of the strife a victor. A little more variety of tone judiciously introduced would have placed Mr. Thomas's execution of the music of the arch-Druid—the foremost personage in the story—beyond reproach. The miscellaneous incidents of the evening were chiefly Weber's "Concert-stück," played by Miss Howell, a young lady of considerable promise; an aria of Cherubini's "Ave Maria," indifferently sung by Miss Martin; a recit. and aria from "Il Flauto," for which Miss Banks gained an encore; an elegy arranged as a quartet and chorus; an aria from "Il Matrimonio Segreto," magnificently sung by Mr. Sims Reeves; and a Sanctus and Benedictus from the pen of Gounod. In some portions of the latter, the writing is extremely fine and appropriate; while in the other there is the sacrifice of sense to sound; the frequent recurrence of the dull, dead drum, and the "high-sounding cymbals" seem to be totally at variance with the orthodox forms of the solemn and severe. St. Martin's Hall was fully attended, and the performance of the last concert of the series appeared to give unmixed satisfaction.

CONCERTS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Mr. Lindsay Sloper's Annual Morning Concert. St. James's Hall. 24.
	London Glee and Madrigal Union. Hanover-square Rooms. 3.
	Sig. and Mme. Ferrari's Concert. Hanover-square Rooms. 8.
	New Philharmonic Society. St. James's Hall. 8.
TUES.	Mr. F. Chatterton's Morning Concert. Hanover-square Rooms.
	Polyhymnic Choir. Hanover-square Rooms. 8.
WED.	Crystal Palace Opera Concert. Afternoon.
	Herr Joachim's Third Concert. Willis's Rooms. 8.
	Mme. de Vaucheren's Evening Concert. Hanover-square Rooms. 8.
	Vocal Association. St. James's Hall. 8.
THURS.	Musical Society of London. Soirée. St. James's Hall. Evening.
FRI.	M. M. Reményi and W. G. Casini's Grand Matinee Musicale. Willis's Rooms. 24.
	Miss Arabella Goddard's First Soirée. St. James's Hall. 8.
	Sacred Harmonic Society. Exeter Hall. "Israel in Egypt." 8.
SAT.	Mlle. Spayer's Annual Morning Pianoforte Recital. Willis's Rooms. 3.
	Mr. John Macfarren's Matinée of Pianoforte Music. Hanover-square Rooms.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

A CONTEMPORARY ANNOUNCES that Miss Arabella Goddard, the celebrated pianist, and James Davison, Esq., the musical critic of the *Times*, have been for some time past united by the bonds of holy matrimony, and calls upon all true lovers of art to hail this union of musical talent with critical acumen.

It has been announced that Mme. Goldschmidt is about to sing in public once more, and again for a charity. Leeds is the locality which will this time be favoured.

On Wednesday evening a ball took place at the St. James's Hall in aid of the funds of the Dramatic College. The guests, who numbered about four hundred, kept it up with great hilarity until an early hour. At the supper-table Mr. Benjamin Webster proposed a bumper to the success of the Royal Dramatic College.

The St. James's Theatre is to be reopened early in the month of June, under the joint management of Mr. Augustus Braham and a Spanish gentleman named Marqués, the intention being to produce English opera and Spanish ballet. A new opera, entitled "Raymond and Agnes," by Edward Loder, will be performed on the first night, and this will be followed by an entertainment sustained by a company of Spanish dancers, whose exploits have been much eulogised by French critics.

The Flower Show at the Crystal Palace, on Wednesday, though not successful so far as the number of visitors was concerned, was perfectly so as regards the splendour and quality of the flowers and plants exhibited. The former circum-

stance is entirely attributable to the badness of the weather; for there can be no doubt that had the sun smiled upon the proceedings, fourteen or fifteen thousand visitors would, as usual, have been in attendance. As it was, the total number of casual visitors and season ticket-holders was 4,457. The arrangement of the plants was very similar to that which has been before adopted at the Crystal Palace; that is to say, in raised banks on either side of the nave, thus leaving room for a promenade along the whole length of the building. The staple of the show consisted of azaleas, Cape heaths, roses, pelargoniums, and orchids. The fruit was, of course, but scanty; but some dwarf orange-trees and vines trained in pots attracted much attention. The Guards' band played during the day.

An advertisement having appeared, under the name of Mr. E. T. Smith, inviting contributions to a "Theatrical Testimonial to Charles Kean," the latter gentleman has addressed a letter repudiating all connection with the matter:

My attention has been called to an advertisement from Mr. E. T. Smith, headed "Theatrical Testimonial to Charles Kean," and I lose not a moment in requesting you will allow me, through the same medium, to assure your readers that I am as much taken by surprise as I feel convinced they must be. I thank Mr. Smith for the kind feeling which has prompted this announcement, but, being perfectly satisfied with the reception my efforts in support of the drama have met with from the public, I have no desire to be intruded on their consideration in the manner proposed.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, CHARLES KEAN.—May 13.

The American papers say that Mlle. Piccolomini has taken passages for herself and suite in the *Vanderbilt*, which sails from New York on June 4, for Southampton and Havre. Previous to her last appearance in New York, the fascinating Siennese addressed the following valedictory address to the citizens:

Before saying adieu to a public which has treated me with proverbial generosity, I beg permission to express, in the best way offered me, the promptings of my heart. I came to this country, so grand, so free, and so charming in its youth and freshness, with hopes which have been more than realised. An artist who is satisfied is a miracle. I am a miracle, then. But perhaps the public, or a portion of it, has been disappointed. That is not my fault. Perhaps the announcements on one side were too rose-coloured, while the demonstrations on the other were too severe. I never pretended to divine genius. I am simply an artist who does the best she can in her humble way, and is proud to stoop for the smallest flower that may be thrown at her feet. There may be others who have the divine spark. Perhaps many others approximate it nearer than I. I love my art, and devote my whole soul to it. I only wish the public to be fair. You have been more—you have been generous; and, whatever success I may have hereafter, the remembrances of my American tour will be among the sweetest of my life's souvenirs. I would rather stay here than go to Europe. But one—who is a spoiled girl, and a prima donna as well—cannot always have her own way; so I must go on the 1st of May. And, therefore, I have written this in advance of my farewell performances, to thank the public of the whole country (and of New York especially) for the favour that has been lavished upon me. More than all this, I shall endeavour in the rôles which I will undertake for the first time here, to show that this gracious favour has not been thrown away, but has encouraged me to new exertions. And so I salute you all. I would be charmed to do it personally, but the country is so large, and the population so immense, that I really fear the time would not be sufficient.—The people's devoted, MARIA PICCOLOMINI.

Karl Formes and his troupe have been delighting the ear of Montreal by some excellent concerts.

News from Australia informs us that Mr. G. V. Brooke has become the sole lessee of the Theatre Royal, Melbourne. Mr. Hudson, the Irish comedian, has appeared there. Miss Emma Stanley seems to be meeting with considerable success, and Mrs. Butler's "readings" attract large audiences.

Paris correspondents relate that the Porte St. Martin has achieved a success with the "Naufrage" of La Peyrouse, in which the dancing of the savages is a triumph for the ballet-master, as the wreck of the vessel is for the machinist. But the grand honours fall upon Mlle. Laurent, who plays a tragic savage, as she did *Jack Sheppard* some time since, with great force, but almost too literally for the demands of art.

Madame Ristori has achieved almost unexampled success in the new translation of "Cassandra," by M. Somma. The effect was so great that on one occasion the whole house rose *en masse*, as if in involuntary response to the enthusiasm of the tragedian.

Mrs. Theodore Martin (Helen Faucit) is now in Paris, on a tour of pleasure. *Galignani* says: "At one of our most distinguished literary salons a few evenings since, the party had the enviable privilege of witnessing her recitation of the poison scene from 'Romeo and Juliet,' and the terrible sleep-walking scene of *Lady Macbeth*; in both of which the effect created is described as immense; though, with a happy tact, the fair *tragedienne* gave the somnambulism of the guilty queen with a subdued intensity befitting the restricted size and auditory of a *salon*."

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETIES.

AT A MEETING held on Wednesday at the London Tavern, Mr. Hyde Clarke in the chair, a large committee was organised, and Mr. Darlington, of Messrs. Phillips and Darlington, appointed hon. secretary for the promotion of a testimonial to Mr. Robert Hunt, F.R.S., Keeper of Mining Record, in recognition of his services to the mining and melting interests in the publication of a system of mineral statistics. The nature of the testimonial will depend on the amount of subscriptions from the various provincial districts.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—On Monday next, the 23rd inst., at one p.m., the anniversary meeting of this society will take place at Burlington House, when the gold medals will be awarded to Captains Burton and Palisier by the president, Sir R. I. Murchison, who will then deliver his address "On the Progress of Geography." A new president will then be elected in the room of Sir Roderick, who retires; and the annual dinner of the society will take place at the Freemasons' Tavern at seven p.m.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—On Saturday last, the 14th inst., the President of the Royal Society gave his second *conversazione*, at the rooms of the society in Burlington House, when nearly six hundred of the fellows and members of the other learned and scientific bodies of the metropolis, who were invited on the occasion, were present. Some of the objects exhibited for the entertainment of the visitors were the same as were shown at the former *conversazione*, but many new objects of great interest were also added. Among these we particularly noticed, Mr. Hattersley's new type-composing machine, which has already been referred to and described in these columns. This beautiful piece of mechanism excited great interest among the company, some of whom could not divest themselves of the idea that it was a kind of electric telegraph. Professor Wheatstone's new apparatus for transmitting and printing telegraphic messages was also exhibited, and keenly examined. Among the miscellaneous objects of interest we particularly noticed an ingenious toy exhibited by Messrs. Newton, the opticians, for showing the effect of figures rapidly moved upon the retina. The diagrams, printed upon discs of cardboard, and viewed through slots in a black disc (both discs being rapidly whirled round), presented the strangest and most unexpected forms. A beautiful series of photographic portraits, by Mr. Herbert Watkins, most of which represented celebrated individuals,

also excited great interest. Among the guests present we noticed, The Danish Minister, Lords Cawdor and Sheffield, the Bishops of Winchester, Carlisle, and Ripon, Count Strzelecki, Sir H. Holland, the Right Hon. Sir W. G. Hayter, Sir C. Lyell, Sir F. Durrant, Sir F. Madden, Sir J. Forbes, Sir J. Shiel, Sir C. Barry, Sir C. Eastlake, Sir H. Ellis, Sir C. Locock, Sir R. I. Murchison, Archdeacon Hale, the Master of the Temple, the Master of the Mint, the Provost of Eton, Mr. Justice Erle, Professors Wheatstone, Donaldson, Bell, Powell, Partridge, M. Ferguson, Faraday, Quekett; Doctors Sharpey, Arnott, J. D. Hooker, Noad, Hamel, Odling, Lankester, Roget, Watson, Granville; Admiral Sir J. C. Ross, General Sabine, Colonel Sykes, M.P., Major Elphinstone; Revs. R. Main, J. F. Denham, and Mitford; Messrs. C. R. Weld, James Lowe, Appold, Hattersley, Hope, Longman, Chambers, Tite, W. Babbage, Manby, Kiernan, Buckland, Bullen, Fairholt, Mitchell, Grote, &c.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—On Friday evening Mr. Hopkins delivered a lecture on the temperature of the earth at different depths. He noticed the observations made in different parts of Europe, from which it appears that the temperature increases 1 deg. Fahrenheit's thermometer every additional 60 feet that it approaches nearer the centre of the earth; and alluded to observations made in sinking a shaft at Monkwearmouth to the depth of 2,200 feet, and of a still deeper shaft at Dukinfield, near Manchester. Assuming that the temperature continues to increase at the same ratio, geologists conclude that at a depth of about seventy or eighty miles the heat would be equal to 6,000 deg., at which the hardest rock would be melted. The object of Mr. Hopkins was to show that such conclusions are erroneous. In the first place they are founded on the assumption that the lower rocks possess the same power of conducting heat as the sedimentary deposits on which the observations have been made; but supposing the conducting power of these rocks to be greater, then the increase of temperature in descending through them would be in a slower ratio, always supposing that the source of heat was the central portion of the globe. He illustrated this position by comparing the transmission of heat through a thick mass of metal and through a plank of wood, both being exposed to the same temperature. In the former case, owing to the greater rapidity with which the heat is conducted, the external surface, though more removed from the heating source, would be only of the same temperature as the outer surface of the thin plank of wood; and in penetrating through it deeper spaces must be traversed to arrive at equal temperatures. Mr. Hopkins has undertaken a series of experiments to ascertain whether the primary crystalline rocks do not, in fact, conduct heat more rapidly than chalk, which he took as representing the conducting property of sedimentary deposits in general. The result of upwards of one hundred experiments was, that the crystalline rocks are much better conductors of heat; and Mr. Hopkins said he was persuaded from those experiments, that the conducting power of the lower rocks exceeds four or five times that of the upper deposits. He came to the conclusion, therefore, from his experiments, that the depth at which all bodies became fluid by heat must be three or four hundred miles, instead of seventy or eighty. The same conclusion could also be arrived at astronomically by the precession of the equinoxes. The periods of the changes of the position of the earth's axis, which occasion the precession of the equinoxes, has been calculated with great care, and those calculations agree exactly with astronomical observations. But the calculations of the effect of the action of the moon's different attraction on the nearer and more distant parts of the earth, which produces that phenomenon, were made on the assumption that the earth is a solid body, and they would not be correct if the interior were fluid, with the exception of so thin a crust as geologists suppose. Assuming, however, the crust of the globe to be three or four hundred miles thick, the fluidity of the remaining portions of the interior would not disturb the calculations of the mathematicians; and the conclusions which they have arrived at would correspond with astronomical observations and with physical experiments. Mr. Hopkins alluded in conclusion to objections which have been raised to his hypothesis, but he said he felt assured that all those objections could be satisfactorily answered.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.—The 36th annual meeting of this society was held on Saturday last, Colonel Sykes, M.P., the President, in the chair. The report, which was read by Mr. Norris, the secretary, gave a brief biographical sketch of some of the more distinguished members of the society who had died during the year, including Mr. John Shakespeare, the author of many standard works upon Arabic and Hindostanee, and one of the original promoters of the institution; Captain John Shepherd; and Mr. Charles M'Farlane, the author of "British India" and other books relating to our Indian territories. The report also furnished a list of the works presented to the library during the past twelve months. Some of them were very valuable and useful, particularly a "Survey of the Coasts of the United States of America," presented by the government authorities at Washington, and the eighth and concluding volume of the Sanscrit dictionary, by Raja Radha Kant Bahadur, of Calcutta. He has been engaged upon his task about fifty years, and has published the elaborate work entirely at his own expense. Another work which attracted considerable notice was a translation in Turkish by Aly Reza Effendi, of the principal portions of "Robertson's History." From the auditors' report it appeared that the receipts from all sources in 1858 amounted to 823*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, which, together with the balance left from the preceding year, made a sum of 1,035*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* After paying the whole expenses of the year, there now remained a balance of 288*l.* 7*s.*

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—On Wednesday, May 18, Sir John Rennie, F.R.S.; in the chair, the paper read was "On the Relative Values of Coal and Coke in Locomotive Engines," by Mr. Benjamin Fothergill. The author's object in this paper was to lay before the society the results of a series of experiments which he had made with coal and coke in locomotive engines, and which had led him to the conclusions that coal was decidedly superior to coke in respect to heating power, and consequently more economical; that a plentiful supply of steam could be generated by it for working engines at high velocities, and for drawing heavy trains; that coal-burning engines could be made to consume their own smoke, and that the fire-boxes and tubes when coal was used were found to last longer. His experiments had been conducted upon the London and South-Western Railway, and were made, at the request of the directors, to ascertain the value of an invention which had been patented by their locomotive superintendent, Mr. Joseph Beattie, and which the author proceeded to describe in detail. The contrivance consists in so dividing the fire-box as to increase the amount of direct heating surface and to diminish the indirect or tube surface, whilst the combustion chamber affords sufficient space for the introduction of a series of fire tiles, for the purpose of retaining a portion of the heat given off from the combustion of the gases, and for diffusing the unconsumed carbon, as well as effecting a complete mixture of the air with the gases, and thereby producing a mass of flames which is brought in contact with the direct heating surface of the combustion chamber before it enters the tubes, at the same time preventing practically such an escape of smoke from the chimney as could be deemed a nuisance. In addition to the practical experiments made by the author on the South-Western Railway, a series of accurate analyses with the view of ascertaining the composition and heating power of various kinds of coke and coal had been made, and from all these investigations it appeared that a saving of from 8½ to about 10½ lbs of coke per mile, which, of course, represented a larger quantity of coal, was

effected by the use of coal in the patent fire-box described, as compared with the quantity of coke consumed in the ordinary engines under similar circumstances. With regard to the durability of the tubes, it had been found that in the coke-burning engines, about 94,000 miles was the average duration of a set of tubes, whilst of the experimental engines burning coal, one had already run 181,000 miles, and the tubes were still in good condition. The author, therefore, expressed a strong opinion in favour of the advantages of coal over coke for locomotive engines.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The annual *conferenza* was held on Tuesday evening, at the institution, in Bloomsbury-square. In addition to the museum, various objects were introduced, including Hughes's patent electric printing telegraph; a new light of great brilliancy, produced by hydrogen gas burnt on platinum; a contrivance for producing polarised light, and an invention for rendering different fabrics non-inflammable. The microscopes, stereoscopes, electric and magnetic machines, and the marine and fresh water vivaria, also monopolised a large share of the attention of the company. A few beautiful water-colour paintings and some excellent photographs were much admired.

JURIDICAL SOCIETY.—At the meeting held on Monday evening, Mr. Baron Bramwell in the chair, the subject for discussion was "Trial by Jury." The discussion was opened by Mr. Best, who, after reviewing the whole question, pronounced strongly against the abolition of the institution. The chairman and Mr. F. Stephen also pronounced strongly on the same side, and the discussion was adjourned.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. Royal Geographical Anniversary, 1 p.m., when the Gold Medals will be awarded to Captains Burton and Paliser, by the President, Sir R. I. Murchison, who will then deliver his address on the Progress of Geography. The dinner will take place at the Freemason's Tavern, at 7.
- TUES. Linnean. 1. Anniversary.
Royal Institution. 3. Professor John Morris, "On Geological Science."
Civil Engineers. 8. "On the Manufacture of Malleable Iron and Steel," by Mr. H. Bessemer.
Medical and Chirurgical. 8½.
Zoological. 9.
- WED. Royal Society of Literature. 4½.
Society of Arts. 8. Mr. John Bell, "On the Application of Definite Proportions and the Conic Sections in Architecture; illustrated chiefly by the Obelisk, with some History of that Feature of Art."
Archæological Association. 8½.
- THURS. Royal Institution. 3. Mr. Austen A. Layard, "On the Seven Periods of Art."
Philosophical Club. 5½.
Numismatic. 7.
Antiquaries. 8.
Philological. 8. Anniversary.
Royal. 8½.
- FRI. Royal Institution. 8½. Mr. Wm. Pengelly, "On the Ossiferous Caverns and Fishes in Devonshire."
SAT. Royal Institution. 3. Mr. J. P. Lacaita, "On Modern Italian Literature."
Royal Botanic. 3½.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

AT A MEETING of the Society of Scottish Antiquarians, held on the 19th of April last, a paper was read by the Right Rev. Bishop Gillis, on the subject of "Burns's Pistols." This paper has since been published (Edinburgh: March and Beattie, pp. 44), and may be procured by those who are curious in the matter. The question discussed in the paper was the identity of the pistols which once belonged to Burns. Allan Cunningham laid claim to the possession of them; but this, in the opinion of the author, is "inconceivably exploded," and no one in future can pretend to seek for the genuine weapons of the poet but where they now are, and ought to be, viz., within the halls of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland. The way the question arose was as follows: About the end of January last, Mr. Peter Cunningham, happening to be in Edinburgh, saw the brace of pistols lately added to the museum of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries as the pistols of Robert Burns, presented by the poet on his death-bed to Dr. Maxwell, of Dumfries. The result of this inspection was an article in the *Illustrated London News*, throwing a doubt upon the authenticity of the pistols. "Are those," says the writer of the article, very generally understood to be identical with Mr. Peter Cunningham, "the pistols worn by the illustrious poet on his excise expeditions against the smugglers on the coast of the Solway?" To settle this question, a letter is quoted from a Mr. James Hastings, of Mount Vernon-road, Liverpool, stating that Dr. Maxwell's pistols were a pair of new ones which belonged to, but never were used by, Burns, and were by Dr. Maxwell at his death given to a friend, and inherited by the grandson of the latter, who took them to America. The upshot of the article was that the pistols bought by Allan Cunningham in 1834, and now in possession of his widow, are the real pistols used by Burns, and that the weapons exhibited by the Scottish Antiquaries have no title to authenticity.

This article in the *Illustrated London News* appears to have made the reverend author of the paper very angry. "On the courtesy, or on the logic, of the above clumsily put together article," writes he, "I shall not here waste words; the one being beneath notice as the other is beneath criticism." This is certainly *un peu fort*, especially as we cannot detect either the slightest discourtesy or want of logic in the article in the *Illustrated London News*. Having delivered himself, however, in this general manner, the author of the paper descends to particulars, and proceeds to upset Mr. Cunningham's case; and to effect this he adopts a very novel mode indeed—he admits it. He admits that the bran new pistols are not (as Mr. Cunningham said they were not), and never were, the pistols of Burns; but an older pair, in green baize bags, discovered "a few days after the appearance of the article in the columns of the *Illustrated London News*," are the real pistols. Having made this admission that a grave mistake has been committed by the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, the writer of the paper proceeds to demolish Mr. Hastings, which he does by proving, upon very satisfactory evidence, that the pistols in the possession of Mr. Howat, who is the grandson of the late Provost Fraser, the "friend" mentioned in Mr. Hastings's letter, were bought by the provost at Dr. Maxwell's sale, and were not given. The evidence further establishes that Provost Fraser never considered them to be Burns's pistols, which, from the rump roll of Dr. Maxwell's sale, appear to have been knocked down for the sum of 2*l.* 6*s.*, and that their ownership by Burns is purely an assumption on Mr. Howat's part.

Having thus disposed of the Howat pistols, the reverend writer of the paper next proceeds to deal with the claims of Allan Cunningham. The passages from Cunningham's "Life of Burns," afford no proof either way, and that Allan Cunningham (or rather his son Peter for him) purchased in 1834, a pair of pistols for 5*l.*, under the belief that they had been Burns's, there is no doubt; Mr. Gillis, however, attempts to show that that belief was unfounded. To this end, he brings forward a letter from Mr. Innes, on behalf of the relatives of Dr. Maxwell, to Allan Cunningham, denying that either Burns's pistols, or anything belonging to Burns, had been sold at Dr. Maxwell's sale, or were intended to be sold—denying it, too, with some indignation, as feeling "that Dr. Maxwell's memory should be redeemed from the imputation of his having done a thing that would not have been creditable in putting to sale what had

been given to him as a token of regard by such a man as Burns." This is supported by the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Strain, the President of St. Mary's College, who was present at the sale, and who expressly declares that "the pistols understood to be Burns's pistols, were not among the articles exposed for sale;" and still further by the evidence of Mrs. Maxwell, of Kirkconnell, Dr. Maxwell's sister-in-law, who bluntly pronounces the report to "an invention of Allan Cunningham's, or else of Brodie the poacher, who bought a pair of pistols, and, perhaps to make them sell better when he parted with them, he declared they belonged to Burns." Finally, there is the evidence of Mr. Burnside, the upholsterer, who conducted Dr. Maxwell's rump, and who declares positively that Burns's pistols were not sold, and that the two brace which were sold were not Burns's pistols.

Mr. Gillis then gets to work to explain the mystification about Cunningham's pistols, and in doing so, shows that blunt Mrs. Maxwell was right enough when she surmised it to be either "an invention of Allan Cunningham's, or else of Brodie the poacher." Brodie bought the pistols at the rump for fifteen shillings—the roll proves that—and immediately afterwards sold them to Mr. Peter Cunningham, for his father, for 5*l*. So far, Allan appears to have been a victim; but Mr. Gillis points out that, whereas in the early edition of Burns's "Life of Cunningham," a letter by Burns, acknowledging the receipt of pistols, was spoken of as addressed to the gunmaker Johnson, in the edition which appeared during the year subsequent to Allan's acquisition of the Burns-Brodie pistols, the name of Johnson was altered to that of Blair, who was the maker of the purchased pistols. This certainly has a very curious look, and requires explanation.

LITERARY NEWS.

PROFESSOR OWEN, during his late stay at Cambridge, was the guest of the Master of Downing College. On Thursday last, after an able speech from the Public Orator, and amid the applause of a full Senate-house, the degree of LL.D., *honoris causa*, was conferred on Professor Owen, this being the first exercise of the University's newly acquired power of granting such distinctions.

The commencement of a new serial novel "Hopes and Fears, or Scenes from the Life of a Spinster" by the popular author of the "Heir of Redclyffe," is announced for publication by Messrs Saunders, Otley, and Co.

The Shrewsbury Discussion Society has resolved to hold a meeting on the 28th inst., to commemorate the centenary of the birth of the distinguished orator and statesman, William Pitt.

In an action brought by John Sutton, the author of some books on medical physiology, against Grafton Gilbert, the publisher, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 62*l*.

The nomination of Professor Owen, in the place of the late Robert Brown, as member of the Institute of France, is confirmed by Imperial decree, dated the 7th instant.

The Crystal Palace has added to its ordinary attractions some lectures on the war in Italy. Mr. Stoeckeler, the well-known writer and lecturer, has been engaged to deliver the last, and began on Monday before very large and attentive audiences.

The Second Mastership of the Grammar School of King Edward VI., Birmingham, will be vacant at Midsummer, consequent on the resignation of the Rev. Sydney Gedge, who has held the appointment for twenty-five years. Mr. Gedge has been presented by Lord Overstone with the vicarage of All Saints, Northampton.

The North British Daily Mail says that "the Prince Consort has intimated that he will visit Aberdeen to open the proceedings of the British Association, at which he is to preside, either on the 7th or 14th of September next; and we learn that the progress of arrangements promises that the meeting will be one of the best which has taken place under the auspices of the association."

The students attending Dr. Johnstone's class at the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution have presented him with a very handsome copy of Barlow and Babage's "Encyclopædia of Arts, Manufactures, and Machinery." The fly-leaf bears the following inscription: "Presented to Thomas Johnstone, Esq., by the pupils attending his private class on Natural Philosophy in the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution, during session 1858-59, as a mark of their esteem and gratitude."

The lectures of Easter Term, at Gresham College, City of London, were concluded on Thursday week, when Mr. Taylor gave his third lecture on music to a crowded audience. The attendance during the last term has been under the ordinary averages, with the exception of the Latin lectures, only one of which was delivered, Dr. Abdy on the 4th having had an audience of four. The attendance on the English lectures has been as follows: Astronomy (three lectures), 78, 76, 58; Physic (three), 70, 40, 42; Rhetoric (two), 28, 32; Divinity (three), 32, 26, 32; Law (three), 22, 26, 20; Geometry (three), 54, 34, 30; Music (three), crowded to excess, and impossible to obtain correct numbers. These statistics seem to give a fair idea of the relative popularity of the subjects chosen for these lectures.

On the evening of Thursday week 300 of the members and friends of the Yorkshire Society dined together at the London Society, Lord Carlisle (who is decidedly "Yorkshire too"), being in the chair. The object of the society is to educate, board, and clothe boys one of whose parents shall have been born in Yorkshire, have been in a respectable line of life, reduced by misfortune, or died, and shall reside or have resided within ten miles of the General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand. The school of the society, established in 1812, is situated in the Westminster-road, and some 42 boys are now the subjects of its bounty. The donations and subscriptions to the charity in the course of the evening amounted to nearly 650*l*.

A contemporary, speaking of a recent change in the proprietorship and management of the *Atlas* says: "This journal, once famous as a financial organ, to which Mr. Gilbert, of the London and Westminster Bank, contributed, and out of a severance in the management of which arose the *Spectator*, has within the last few years seen many changes—a mark of the changes the penny press is working amongst the weekly journals. Under the management of Mr. H. J. Slack, Kossuth contributed his celebrated letters. It then passed to Mr. James Beal, whose articles on banking and finance restored its early fame. Mr. H. B. Sheridan, M.P. for Dudley, then became proprietor. It has now passed into the hands of Mr. Peter Morrison of the Deposit Bank, who recently published a 'Life of Napoleon III.,' under the nom de plume of 'A British Officer.' It is now, we are told, to be devoted to the advocacy of the cause of 'the Empire,' and henceforth may be considered as the only organ in England devoted to the cause of Napoleon, in which it will be expected to rival the support hitherto tended by the *Morning Post*."

The *Publisher's Circular* says: "We have been favoured with a copy of the Report by M. Romberg, of the Belgian Commission, which had been charged by royal order to draw up a bill on the subject of literary and artistic copyright. The provisions of the bill are appended to the report. It is prepared in a wise and liberal spirit, and should it become law, to Belgium will belong the honour

of having taken a noble initiative in generalising a law which has hitherto been subordinated to diplomatic convenience, and in decreeing, *unreservedly and without any condition of reciprocity*, a respect for the rights of writers and artists of foreign countries equal to those of Belgium. This principle is laid down in the first article of the bill, and its generous and comprehensive character, conformable to the spirit which animated the Congress whence it emanated, is manifested throughout.

The annual distribution of prizes to the students attached to the Mechanics' Institution, Glasgow, took place on Monday night, the Lord Provost in the chair. The annual report gave a very encouraging statement of the progress which the institution had made during the year. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company have agreed to purchase the present site for 5,000*l*, which afforded them a large profit; and the directors have not yet decided whether the institution will be moved. The report stated that the institution was now in union with the Society of Arts in London. The local board had held examinations of forty-eight students, of whom forty-two had passed. The number of prizes to be awarded this year to the institution was forty-five, among forty-three students.

A meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, in support of the Oxford and Cambridge mission to Central Africa. The Bishop of Oxford presided. The following resolutions were moved and carried: "That the recent discoveries of Dr. Livingstone having brought to light a large and hitherto unknown region of Central Africa, it is of the utmost importance that a mission should be sent into that heathen land, and that it should consist, as soon as practicable, of a bishop and some assistant clergy." "That an association having already been formed by members of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for sending out a mission to Central Africa, to be called the 'Oxford and Cambridge Mission,' which it is proposed to connect with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, this meeting undertakes to promote the general objects of the association by every means in its power." "That it is highly desirable that steps should forthwith be taken for forming a London committee of the association, and that meetings should be held and sermons preached in behalf of the proposed mission in the principal towns of England."

A deputation from the General Association for the Australian Colonies, had an interview with Lord Colchester, the Postmaster-General, on Wednesday, on the subject of the proposal to increase the postage on newspapers to the Australian colonies, via Southampton, one penny each, on the 1st January next.

An American paper, referring to a late literary performance by Mr. Dion Bourcicault, compliments that gentleman in the following fashion: "Judging from the general tenor of the article on Douglas Jerrold, which we copy this week from the *Tribune*, we should infer that the author, Mr. Dion Bourcicault, had been educated in a cockney newspaper office."

A Paris correspondent states that the book entitled "La Question Romaine," by M. About, has been seized in all the booksellers' shops in consequence of the article which appeared in the *Univers* denouncing it.

BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED.

Ablington's Series of War Maps: Sardinian States, 1*s*. sheet
Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary, by Dynebeck, 36th edition, 18mo, 4*s*. 6*d*. cloth
Ainsworth's (J. L.) Treatise on Medical Electricity, Theoretical and Practical, 8vo, 7*s*. 6*d*. cloth
Baillie's (Rev. J.) Rivers in the Desert, new edition, foolscap 8vo, 5*s*. cloth
Beard's (C.) Outlines of Christian Doctrine: Ten Sermons, post 8vo, 5*s*. cloth
Bowen's (E. E.) Force of Habit—Moral Government of Man by God, crown 8vo, 1*s*. sewed
Buck's (H.) The Rifle, and how to use it, 4th edit., with additions, fcp. 8vo, 2*s*. 6*d*. hf.-bd.
Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress, with Notes and Illustrations, fcp. 8vo, 1*s*. 6*d*. cloth
Bunyan's (Rev. A. A.) Christ and His Church in the Book of Psalms, 8vo, 10*s*. 6*d*. cloth
Burgoyne's (J. C.) Chronological Account of India, 12mo, 2*s*. 6*d*. cloth
Carle's (Rev. J.) Manual of the Anatomy of the Human Mind, second edition, fcp. 8vo, 4*s*. cl.
Cary's (A.) Pictures of Country Life, foolscap 8vo, 1*s*. 6*d*. boards
Chalmers' (J.) Notes and Queries, Vol. II. Folk Lore, foolscap 8vo, 5*s*. cloth
Cobb's Bible Reader's Hand-book, new edition, royal 22mo, 2*s*. 6*d*. cloth
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